February 2013 news releases

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations
February 2013 News

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MISSOULA –

Four University of Montana teacher candidates will fly to China on March 8 to student teach for eight weeks.

Under the leadership of Rhea Ashmore, UM Professor Emerita of Curriculum and Instruction, formal partnerships were established between UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences and the two placement sites in China.

Natalie Rich, a graduate student from Ashtabula, Ohio, and Elizabeth “Lizzy” Douglas, a graduate student from Neenah, Wis., will student teach at Guiyang No. 4 Experimental Primary School in Guizhou Province; and seniors Frances Bonnet from Kalispell and Cedar Smith from Columbia Falls will teach at Hangzhou New Century Foreign Language School in Zhejiang Province. Following in their footsteps, Beth Heflin, a graduate student from Mount Juliet, Tenn., has applied early to student teach in Hangzhou in the fall.

“This is my first time leaving the country, I am nervous but extremely excited to be sharing my love of teaching with a different part of the world,” Smith said. “I am proud to be representing The University of Montana, state of Montana and United States as a student teacher in Hangzhou, China.”

Since autumn semester 2010, five UM student teachers have studied in Hangzhou. For the first time this spring, UM students also will student teach in Guiyang.

“We will be able to experience another education system and bring best practices back to our American classrooms,” said Rich.

“Our teacher education candidates are living the reality of the global century by preparing to be exemplary teachers while contributing to worldwide understanding,” said Roberta Evans, dean of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences.

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Photo caption: (from left) Beth Heflin, Rhea Ashmore, Natalie Rich, Frances Bonnet, Cedar Smith and Elizabeth Douglas. Photo credit: Nancy Marra.

RA/all

Local, hometowns

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Contact: Rhea Ashmore, Professor Emerita of Curriculum and Instruction, UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, 406-546-7279, rheashmore@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The University of Montana has contracted National Coalition Building Institute Missoula to provide a limited number of free workshops and trainings to classes, departments and groups during spring semester.

NCBI, a local chapter of the nonprofit NCBI International, combats prejudice and violence. The organization offers trainings as an effective way to build group cohesion, increase collaboration and explore issues of equality and diversity. Participants learn how to build inclusive and welcoming environments, tackle divisive issues and respond to mistreatment and violence.

Trainings available to UM include “Building Bridges Across Group Lines,” “Leadership Clinic,” “Controversial Issues,” “Allies for LGBTQI Equality” and more. NCBI also can provide custom workshops to fit specific needs. The organization previously has provided training for campus departments and groups such as Human Resource Services, the School of Law, Student Assault Resource Center and the Department of Athletics.

For more information or to schedule a training session, call NCBI at 406-541-6891 or email ncbi@ncbimissoula.org. Information also is available on the NCBI Missoula website at http://www.ncbimissoula.org.

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Campus

022713ncbi

Contact: Katie Koga, office manager, National Coalition Building Institute Missoula, 406-541-6891, katie@ncbimissoula.org.
MISSOULA –

The brains of healthy children respond to long-term air pollution exposure with landmarks akin to those of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, according to a new paper co-written by University of Montana Associate Professor Dr. Lilian Calderon-Garciduenas.

The article, titled “Early Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s Disease Pathology in Urban Children. Friend vs. Foe Responses: It Is Time to Face the Evidence,” will be published in a special online March issue of the peer-reviewed BioMed Research International journal.

The study, conducted by principal investigator Calderon-Garciduenas and researchers at the National University of Mexico and the National Institute of Pediatrics in Mexico City, details the clinical and pathology findings in Mexico City children who are chronically exposed to high concentrations of air pollutants.

Air pollutants, including fine particulate matter above current U.S. standards, are abundant in Mexico City, where 8 million children are exposed to harmful levels of pollution due to extreme urban growth.

Healthy children in this environment exhibited cognitive deficits and structural brain abnormalities, along with evidence of systemic inflammation, respiratory and cardiovascular damage.

"Of particular concern are the deficits involving measures of fluid intelligence and cognitive control," said Calderon-Garciduenas, who teaches in the UM Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. "These are able to predict school performance, complex learning, ability to control attention and avoid distraction, and reading and listening comprehension. Also, of key importance from a social point of view, they affect the ability to block impulsive and anti-social behavior.”

The Mexico City data suggest exposed children develop inflammation in the brain and potentially are at risk of developing Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases. These findings are in line with experimental literature associating exposure to particulate matter components such as diesel exhaust with brain inflammation and markers of preclinical Alzheimer’s.

"Investing in defining the central nervous system pathology associated with exposure to air pollutants in children is of pressing importance for public health," Calderon-Garciduenas said. "Equally important is research into an early implementation of measures to slow or stop brain and systemic inflammatory processes in children exposed to air pollution.

"If we truly are trying to identify and mitigate environmental factors that influence the development of these terrible diseases [Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s], we must face the current pediatric evidence and act on what we are discovering."

For more information call Calderon-Garciduenas at 406-243-4793 or email lilian.calderon-garciduenas@umontana.edu. The article is available online at http://www.hindawi.com/journals/bmri/2013/161687/.

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State, National Science

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Contact: Lilian Calderon-Garciduenas, associate professor, UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, 406-243-4785, lilian.calderon-
MISSOULA –

The University Center’s Student Involvement Network is hosting the International Women’s Day Celebration beginning at 11 a.m. Friday, March 8, in the UC. The celebration ends with a fundraising banquet from 6 to 9 p.m. in the UC Ballroom. Tickets for the closing banquet are $12 for students and $15 for faculty, staff and community members. The events throughout the day are free and open to the public.

International Women’s Day is a global event celebrating, empowering and inspiring women. This celebration brings an international perspective to UM and the Missoula community. International Women’s Day will begin in the UC Atrium with table exhibitions, which will display information and exhibits from the community, national organizations and student groups. Cultural and educational activities, panel discussions and performances are part of the celebration, as well as free skin care, health and beauty samples and demonstrations. There will also be an International Women Hall of Fame, a Prose and Poems corner and a free speech board.

The International Women’s Day Banquet will include an opening speech from Teresa Branch, vice president for Student Affairs at UM, followed by keynote speaker Carol Williams, who recently retired from representing District 46 in the Montana Senate. Williams served as a founding member of the national board of Peace Links from 1982 to 1999. Peace Links was founded to expand the role of women in the discussions of U.S. national security issues and the importance of dialogue between the countries of the former Soviet Union, China, Japan, East Germany, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

The entertainment during the banquet will include a fashion show with traditional attire from Tajikistan, Myanmar, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. There will be poem recitations and an all-female cast’s rendition of a Maya Angelou play, as well as performances of traditional ethnic and modern dances from Persia, Africa, Brazil and Japan. The celebration will host a silent auction to raise funds for Griz for UNICEF.

For more information call Layokat Rasulova, SIN student coordinator, at 406-243-6189 or email layokat.rasulova@mso.umt.edu, or call Adrianne Donald, assistant director for Student Involvement & Communications, at 406-243-6029 or email adonald@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Adrianne Donald, assistant director for student involvement and communication, University Center, 406-243-6029, adonald@mso.umt.edu; Layokat Rasulova, SIN student coordinator, 406-243-6189, layokat.rasulova@mso.umt.edu.
POLSON –

University of Montana Research Scientist Erin Sexton recently was awarded the 2012 Conservation Achievement Award. At its Feb. 7 annual meeting, The Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society presented the highly coveted award to Sexton for her work in developing a long-term solution in protecting the Flathead Basin ecosystem.

Sexton served as the transboundary coordinator for the state of Montana and is a research scientist at UM’s Flathead Lake Biological Station. During the past 10 years, Sexton has been a leader in protecting the international Flathead River for generations to come.

The Flathead River, which originates in British Columbia, Canada, and flows into Montana, is considered one of America’s wildest rivers due to its pristine water quality and abundant, diverse aquatic and terrestrial life. However, since the mid-1970s the headwaters of the Flathead have been threatened by British Columbia’s plans to strip mine for coal, and in 2007 British Petroleum announced plans for coal-bed methane development in the basin.

According to Richard Hauer, professor of limnology at FLBS and director of UM’s Institute on Ecosystems, Sexton’s swift response successfully prevented these plans from coming to fruition. The success was in large part due to her efforts to coordinate and develop a solid foundation of science to inform management and conservation professionals of the shared aquatic resources in the Flathead.

“Erin has shown exemplary vision in her commitment to developing a long-term solution on the Flathead,” said Hauer. “She has remained resolute in her commitment to link the scientific results with management and policy.”

On Feb. 18, 2010, Premier Gordon Campbell of British Columbia and then Gov. Brian Schweitzer signed an unprecedented accord to prohibit coal mining, coal-bed methane extraction, and gas and oil exploration and development in the Transboundary Flathead River Basin.

“Without Erin’s efforts, we believe this landmark conservation achievement would not have been realized,” said Clint Muhlfeld, research ecologist and faculty affiliate at FLBS and senior scientist with the United States Geological Society.

Sexton graduated from UM in 2002 with a master’s in environmental studies with a science emphasis.

For more information call Sexton at 406-250-4779 or email erin.sexton@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Erin Sexton, research scientist, UM Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-250-4779, erin.sexton@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

High school and middle school students from throughout Montana will present their research findings during the 58th annual Montana State Science Fair March 18-19 at The University of Montana’s Adams Center.

The deadline for early registration is 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, with a $20 registration fee. After March 13, the late registration fee will be $25. Students can register online at http://www.mtsciencefair.org.

The exhibits will be open for public viewing from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, March 18, and from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 19. The awards ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre.

The grand award winners from the Montana State Science Fair and Montana’s regional fairs will go on to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair May 12-17 in Phoenix.

The Montana State Science Fair is sponsored by The University of Montana, the Missoula Exchange Club, The University of Montana President’s Office and the College of Arts and Sciences.

For more information visit http://www.mtsciencefair.org, or call Montana State Science Fair Director Earle Adams at 406-243-4196 or email earle.adams@mso.umt.edu, or call Montana State Science Fair Assistant Director Desirae Ware at 406-243-4074 or email desirae.ware@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Earle Adams, director, Montana State Science Fair, 406-243-4196, earle.adams@mso.umt.edu; Desirae Ware, assistant director, Montana State Science Fair, 406-243-4074, desirae.ware@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

University of Montana publications recently captured five awards in regional and national college marketing competitions.

UM’s institutional magazine, the Montanan, won a Grand Gold in writing from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District VIII, which encompasses the Pacific Northwest, western Canada and Alaska.

The award honored an article written by Nate Schweber titled “Call of the Wild,” which described the success of modern hunter-gatherer, UM alum and author Steven Rinella. The Grand Gold honors the top writing entry produced in CASE District VIII last year.

The Montanan also earned a Bronze CASE award for an article titled “The Bakken Boom” by Ed Kemmick. Both winning articles were in the spring 2012 issue of the Montanan.

“It’s great to see our writers receive such a high level of recognition,” said John Heaney, the Montanan editor-in-chief. “I think it shows how hard we work to bring compelling, relevant stories to the 100,000 alumni and friends of UM who receive the magazine.”

The Montanan also won a Silver award for external publications in the 28th annual Educational Advertising Awards, presented by the Higher Education Marketing Report. Nearly 3,000 entries were submitted to this national contest this year.

Other EAA honors were a Bronze for “UM 2020: The Strategic Plan for The University of Montana (Second Edition)” and a Merit for UM’s Research View newsletter.

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Contact: Cary Shimek, University Relations senior news editor, 406-243-5914, cary.shimek@umontana.edu; John Heaney, Montanan editor-in-chief, 406-243-2488, john.heaney@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

Matthew Taylor, director of the Montana Safe Schools Center at The University of Montana, is one of 60 people invited by the White House to help inform President Barack Obama’s school anti-violence initiatives this week in Washington, D.C.

Taylor was nominated to participate in the discussions by the U.S. Department of Education. Other attendees include educators, law enforcement, emergency management professionals, faith leaders, mental health experts and victims of gun violence.

The group will meet Wednesday, Feb. 27, at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next to the White House to discuss what should be included in plans to support Obama’s recent 23 executive actions to reduce gun violence, including an action to create model emergency management plans for schools, institutions of higher education and houses of worship, and to provide best practices for training students and staff to follow these plans.

“I was very pleased and honored to receive the invitation,” Taylor said. “I think it’s an extension of the work the Montana Safe Schools Center does here in Montana and also at the national level. We have been working with the Department of Education on emergency management issues closely since 2004.”

Taylor also serves as associate director of the Institute for Educational Research and Service in UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, which incorporates the Montana Safe Schools Center. MSSC creates curriculum for schools on suicide prevention, school emergency exercises and incorporating crisis management structures such as the incident command system, which is widely used by police, fire and emergency medical services across the country.

Through MSSC and the IERS National Native Children’s Trauma Center, Taylor and colleagues John Frederikson, Marilyn Zimmerman, Amy Foster Wolferman and IERS Director Rick van den Pol also provide input to the Department of Education on training curriculum based in the four phases of emergency management, as relevant to schools: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

“In particular, the mental-health recovery phase links to IERS’s work with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and efforts to reduce post-traumatic stress disorder and secondary trauma, as well as enhance resilience for American Indian and Alaska Native children and the educators who serve them,” Taylor said.

For more information call van den Pol at 406-243-6756, email rick.vandenpol@umontana.edu or visit http://iers.umt.edu/.

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State

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Contact: Rick van den Pol, director, Institute for Educational Research and Service at the UM, 406-243-6756, rick.vandenpol@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The Associated Students of The University of Montana Neighborhood Ambassador Program expanded its services this semester with the help of $10,000 from Missoula Mayor John Engen’s office. The student program now serves the entire University District, and part of the Lower Rattlesnake and Kiwanis Park neighborhoods, which have a high density of student renters.

The program, which started in spring 2012, works to improve relationships between student renters and permanent residents living in neighborhoods surrounding the UM campus. Ambassadors work in assigned areas, going door to door to get to know residents and serve as a resource if they have any issues with their neighbors.

“Our small investment in the ASUM Neighborhood Ambassador Program pays big dividends for the city,” said Engen. “Our citizens in neighborhoods close to the University have the chance to develop working relationships with students who are all about being good neighbors.

“These ambassadors are trained to help solve problems, and those solutions ultimately temper frustration, reduce the calls for service to our police department and generally improve the relationships between neighbors. That’s all good.”

Aside from door-to-door visits, the ambassadors produce a monthly newsletter to create a network of communication, plan fun neighborhood events and implement outreach campaigns on renter rights and responsibilities.

“The program takes a preventative approach to decreasing conflicts in our neighborhoods,” said Katherine Brady, ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center director, “We encourage regular communication between neighbors that starts immediately upon move-in, in hopes that this will create an environment that allows potential conflicts to work themselves out before they escalate into problems that require mediation from an outside source.”

The ambassadors hit the streets last week for the first round of door knocking. The group’s first event of the semester will be a “Meet and Greet with the Ambassadors” from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26 at Buttercup Market & Cafe at 1221 Helen Ave. All residents in the program area are welcome to attend and enjoy free appetizers and beverages while getting to know the ambassadors and learning more about the program.

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Local

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Contact: Katherine Brady, director, ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center, 406-243-2017, katherine.brady@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

After months of researching the facts, folklore and history of the underground features once part of Missoula’s historic downtown landscape, students in a University of Montana archaeological survey class are ready to present their findings to the public.

The presentation, "What Lies Beneath? Missoula Historic Underground Project," will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 1, at the Missoula Mercantile building. The event is a part of First Friday Missoula and is free and open to the public.

"Whether Missoula, Portland, Seattle, Butte or Havre, the American West’s urban undergrounds are laced with mystique," said UM anthropology Associate Professor Kelly Dixon, who teaches the class. "By examining archival, architectural and archaeological evidence, along with local collective memories, this archaeology project is dedicated to documenting and understanding the physical remains of Missoula’s historic urban underground landscape that included a mix of steam tunnels, sidewalk vaults and extensive basement spaces."

Fifteen students in the class teamed up with recently retired Missoula Historic Preservation Officer Philip Maechling to document, photograph and catalog any information pertaining to Missoula’s historic underground.

Friday’s event will include brief presentations of the findings thus far, a slideshow of the many photographs taken over the course of the project and intermittent tours of the Missoula Mercantile basement. People are welcome to come and go at their leisure and are asked to use the building’s rear entrance on Pattee Street.

“The Missoula downtown business community has been so cooperative, sharing whatever information they have and graciously putting up with students crawling around in their basements,” said UM anthropology graduate student Nikki Manning. “We’re anxious for people to join us on March 1 so that we can share some of that rich heritage with the community, and we’re always excited to hear additional relevant stories and experiences.”

Students will continue to work with downtown business owners and with UM’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library faculty, including Archivist Donna McCrea, to locate historical maps, photos and other records for their research.

For more information call Dixon at 406-243-2450 or email kelly.dixon@mso.umt.edu. Anyone with relevant information to contribute to the project can call Manning at 978-684-2341 or email nikki.manning@umontana.edu.

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KD/jh

Western Montana

022213MHUP

Contact: Kelly Dixon, UM anthropology associate professor, 406-243-2450, kelly.dixon@mso.umt.edu; Nikki Manning, UM anthropology graduate student, 978-684-2341, nikki.manning@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The University of Montana will host a series of “India in Missoula” events March 1-9 to celebrate the country that gave the world the zero, the decimal system, chickens, cotton cloth and yoga.

India is home to one-sixth of humanity, the birthplace of four major religions and a rising global economy, said UM Professor Ruth Vanita. “India in Missoula” will allow the UM and Missoula communities to experience the history, science and culture of that country through a variety of events. UM students also will learn about opportunities to study abroad in India.

The University continues to focus its activities pertaining to India, including the development of new faculty-led study abroad programs and new means to welcome Indian students to study in Missoula. These efforts are important as India sends more students to study in the U.S. than any other country except for China, and an increasing number of American students choose to study abroad there.

"Given the immense and pressing changes occurring in the world, especially those brought by technological innovation, we need to be more aware of the cultural richness, history and current happenings in India as that country moves rapidly to respond to new opportunities," said Arlene Walker-Andrews, associate provost for global century education at UM.

All “India in Missoula” events are free and open to the public. The schedule is as follows:

- **Friday, March 1:** “Connect with India,” a First Friday exhibit, watercolor by Kendahl Jan Jubb and photography by Ram Murphy, 5-7:30 p.m., Murphy-Jubb Fine Art, 210 N. Higgins Ave., Suite 300;
- **Saturday, March 2:** “The Traditional Medicine of India Meets Western Lifestyle: Optimize Your Health Through Ayurveda,” an interactive workshop where participants will learn to create a lifestyle and diet plan tailored to their individual health and wellbeing, 1-3 p.m., Skaggs Building Room 114;
- **Monday, March 4:** “Gandhi after Gandhi: Globalizing Gandhian Ethics,” UM President’s Lecture Series, Leela Gandhi, 8 p.m., George and Jane Dennison Theatre;
- **Thursday, March 7:** “Study Abroad to India,” a presentation for UM students interested in studying abroad in India, 4-5:30 p.m., University Center Room 330;
- **Thursday, March 7:** “Bitter Seeds,” an Indian film about the controversy surrounding genetically modified seeds in a village, 7 p.m., University Center Theater;
- **Friday, March 8:** “East-West Fusion,” classical Indian vocalist Aditya Prakash will perform with tabla player Neelamjit Dhillon and pianist Julian Le, 4-6 p.m., Music Building Room 1;
- **Saturday, March 9:** “Classical Indian Vocalist Aditya Prakash,” Prakash will perform Hindu and Muslim devotional music, 4-6 p.m., Music Recital Hall.

“We encourage the entire campus and Missoula community to attend the events – presentations, lectures, art exhibits, film showings and musical concerts – all of which promise to be instructive, entertaining, inspiring and which will provide a large, open window to India’s fascinating culture, political scene and society,” said Jerry Fetz, acting director of the UM Office of International Programs.

For more information call OIP International Program Development Officer Peter Baker at 406-243-6142 or email peter.baker@mso.umt.edu.

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

A recent U.S. Supreme Court case implicating forest roads as sources of pollution will be highlighted in “The Clean Water Act on Trial,” a Plum Creek Distinguished Lecture Series seminar hosted by The University of Montana College of Forestry and Conservation. The free public event will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, in the University Center Ballroom.

The seminar will highlight key elements of the case, which was argued before the Supreme Court in December. The case claimed that forest roads are point sources of pollution and unregulated under the Clean Water Act. Invited speakers will discuss how the local economy, ecosystems and recreation opportunities may be impacted by a decision in this case.

The morning session, held from 9 a.m. to noon, will address the legal dimensions of the case and includes speakers Michelle Bryan Mudd, UM associate professor of law and director of Montana’s Land Use Clinic, presenting an overview of the case; Chip Murray, vice president for policy and general counsel of the National Alliance of Forest Owners, presenting arguments put forth by the petitioners; and Christopher Winter, founder of Crag Law Center, providing arguments from the plaintiff’s side.

A forestry implications panel from 1 to 3 p.m. will discuss how logging roads and water quality currently are addressed and how that may be changed by the case ruling. Panelists include Brian Sugden, a forest hydrologist with private forestry company Plum Creek, speaking about how roads and streams interact ecologically; Bruce Sims, a regional hydrologist with the U.S. Forest Service, providing a federal perspective on the current efforts and possible future of logging roads in maintaining water quality; Rob Olszewski, vice president of environmental affairs for Plum Creek, providing insight into how private forestry may be affected by the case ruling; and George Mathieu, administrator of permitting, prevention and assistance for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, presenting the state perspective.

Each session will be followed by a Q-and-A with the audience. Lunch will be provided for those attending the daylong event.

For more information call Andrew Larson, UM assistant professor and Plum Creek Committee chair, at 406-243-5532 or email a.larson@umontana.edu; or email UM student and Plum Creek Fellow Eryn Schneider at eryn.schneider@umontana.edu.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: A press conference with all the speakers will be held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in UC Room 331.

BP

Western Montana

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Contact: Andrew Larson, assistant professor and Plum Creek Committee chair, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-5532, a.larson@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The English Language Institute at The University of Montana is one of only two universities in the United States chosen to host the U.S. Department of State’s Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Long-term English Language Program.

Ten Hubert Humphrey Fellows will participate in the five-month-long language and culture program, which runs from the end of March through August. The program assists in increasing Fellows’ English language proficiency and understanding of American culture. When they finish, participants will serve as academic Fellows at other U.S. institutions for one year.

The Humphrey Program is a Fulbright exchange activity funded primarily through the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It brings accomplished mid-career professionals from developing countries to the U.S. for a year of academic and professional training and engagement. The program allows Fellows to interact with and learn from U.S. leaders in their respective fields, which are usually business, public administration and law.

Humphrey Fellows are selected in their home countries based on their potential for leadership and commitment to public service. The program intends to foster a mutual exchange of knowledge and understanding about issues of common global concern. More than 4,000 people have served as Humphrey Fellows since the program began in 1979. Between 160 and 200 Fellowships are awarded annually. The program’s grant is renewable for five years.

Founded in 1993, UM’s English Language Institute serves international students seeking to improve their English language and academic skills in order to pursue studies at UM or another institution of higher education, or for professional training purposes. The institute, housed within UM’s Office of International Programs, provides academic year and summer instruction, as well as tailored short-term English language and American culture training programs. ELI has taught English to students from more than 44 countries, with a majority of students continuing their studies at UM or other American institutions.

For more information call English Language Institute Director Sandra Janusch at 406-243-2334 or email sandra.janusch@mso.umt.edu.

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Western Montana

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Contact: Sandra Janusch, director, UM English Language Institute, 406-243-2334, sandra.janusch@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

The University of Montana Foundation is pleased to announce a new scholarship that honors a pioneering family whose members homesteaded and created roots in north-central Montana.

Sandra Hanson Straus recently announced her decision to donate $450,000 for the Baker-Black Scholarship, memorializing her late grandmother, Grace Ely Black; her stepfather, John Donald Baker; and her mother, Norma Black Baker, who is still living at 94 years of age.

“My grandmother, stepfather and mother worked the land, breaking ground with just a horse and plow, and farming and ranching in Teton County,” Straus said. “Their work ethic was truly inspiring and formative for me, but it was their generosity and strength of character that I remember most dearly. This gift was my opportunity to honor and celebrate their lives and accomplishments.”

The Baker-Black scholarship provides full tuition to an incoming UM student for up to four years and is based on a combination of merit and need. Priority will be given to applicants who graduate from public high schools in the Teton, Glacier, Pondera and Toole counties, the area in which Straus was born and raised. The first scholarship will be awarded this spring for the 2013-14 academic year.

“The gift comes at a time when student recruitment has become a highly competitive business, with universities across the country raising the stakes to get the best and brightest students,” said UM President Royce Engstrom. “As we look to the next class of incoming freshmen, we are intent on increasing our enrollment and providing more students with the opportunity to learn and grow in the inspiring environment of UM. The generosity of individuals such as Sandra Straus ensures that students can pursue their academic goals. On behalf of our institution, and those students yet to come, we are very grateful.”

Grace Ely Black was born in 1896 in Illinois and married Ernest Black in 1917. Ernest and Grace moved to Montana, where they homesteaded in Teton County.

Grace was active in church and community groups, spending countless hours on volunteer work and helping her friends and neighbors. She taught her family the importance of assisting others, not for any reward, but for the “good of their souls.” Grace enjoyed entertaining; Christmas parties always were at her house, and she loved the holidays.

Grace endured hard times. She kept the family homestead through the Depression, lost a son to illness in his teens and became a widow at age 54. She valued education and provided financial and emotional support, encouraging both her daughter and granddaughter to attend college.

About her mother, Straus explains that Norma Black Baker was Grace and Ernest’s daughter. She grew up on the family homestead and graduated from Kinman Business University in Spokane, Wash. She then worked for General Mills in Spokane and Great Falls as an assistant sales manager. Norma and her first husband, Sid Hanson, took over the family farm after Norma’s father passed away. After Sid’s death, Norma married John Baker.

Norma’s business background was invaluable in managing the family farms. Her accounting and filing systems were meticulous and she could access needed information instantly. She always worked hard and, when she could, saved diligently. With careful management, she established the family on a solid financial footing. Norma followed the family tradition of volunteer work, giving generously of her time to community organizations.

Straus fondly recalls her stepfather, John Donald Baker, a lifelong farmer and rancher in the Choteau area. After his marriage to Norma Black Hanson, he treated her daughter, Sandra, as though she were his own.
John loved ranching and his cattle herd was always one of the finest in the area. He adapted his methods to the changing times, eventually giving up horses for three-wheeled vehicles. He easily managed his herd because the cattle knew him so well they followed behind him.

“John was from the ‘a-man-is-as-good-as-his-word’ school,” Straus said. “If John promised something, you could completely count on it.”

“I grew up in Montana,” Straus said. “My family has always been in Montana. When I went to college, it was a challenge for me to attend. Money was tight and, even in the 1970s, girls from small farming communities were seldom encouraged to go to college. I was awarded two scholarships, which made the difference in my ability to remain in school. It gives me great pleasure to now be able to help others from my part of Montana attend the University. This scholarship honors Grace Black, Norma and John Baker. It is due to their lifetimes of hard work that this gift is possible.”

Photo caption: From left: Grace Ely Black, John Donald Baker, Norma Black Baker

Contact: Erin Greenside, associate director for strategic communications, UM Foundation, 406-243-5305, erin.greenside@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA--

TRiO programs from across the state will celebrate National TRiO Day on Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Capitol Building in Helena.

Federal TRiO programs were designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to assist them in achieving their goals of postsecondary education.

According to Joseph Hickman, director of the TRiO programs at The University of Montana, National TRiO Day is meant to focus the nation's attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives.

"We are happy to celebrate Montana programs on this national day because we want more people in Montana know about the services of the TRiO programs," said Hickman. "We also want people to know that this program works and should be expanded to serve more students from low-income families across Montana."

UM has two TRiO programs: TRiO-Student Support Services and TRiO-Upward Bound. The goal of TRiO-Student Support Services is to increase the college retention and graduation rates by providing opportunities for academic development, assisting students with basic college requirements and motivating students toward the successful completion of their baccalaureate education.

TRiO-Upward Bound serves high school students from low-income families and those from families in which neither parent graduated from college. Its main goal is to increase the rate of participants graduating from high school and enrolling at and succeeding in higher education institutions.

The Missoula College of UM also houses a TRiO-Educational Opportunity Center and is available for those who wish to continue their education at either the high school or college level. The TRiO-Educational Opportunity Center’s main office is located in Havre on the Montana State University-Northern campus but also has six site coordinators serving at 10 sites across the state of Montana.

For more information on TRiO programs or to see if you qualify, call the UM office at 406-243-5032 or go to http://www.umt.edu/triosss/ or http://www.umt.edu/trioub/.

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

Students with The University of Montana’s Office for Civic Engagement are working with the Missoula Public Library to organize a day of celebration for the 109th birthday of Dr. Seuss from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 3, at the Missoula Public Library. The event is geared for families and children age 3 and older and is free and open to the public.

The celebration includes several craft and game activities, including headband stations, a coloring and activity page table and children’s games. There also will be face painting, a reading of “The Lorax” and snacks and beverages.

Dr. Seuss was born Theodore Seuss Geisel on March 2, 1904. He wrote many children’s books, including “The Cat in the Hat,” “Yertle the Turtle” and “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” several of which have become feature films, TV shows and Broadway musicals in recent years. Dr. Seuss’ books have been translated into more than 15 languages and more than 200 million copies have been sold. His honors included two Academy awards, two Emmy awards, a Peabody award and the Pulitzer Prize. He died in 1991.

For more information or to volunteer for this event, call UM Tutoring Project volunteer coordinator Marissa McClintock at 406-243-5531 or email umtutoringproject@gmail.com.

Contact: Marissa McClintock, volunteer coordinator, UM Tutoring Project, 406-243-5531, umtutoringproject@gmail.com.
MISSOULA –

A new exhibit at The University of Montana will use video, visuals, artifacts and sound to tell the story of the Irish in Montana. An opening reception for “From Rocky Shores to the Rocky Mountains: The Irish in Montana” will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, March 1, on the main floor of the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Library.

The exhibit is a collaboration of “The Gathering: Collected Oral Histories of the Irish in Montana,” the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives and the UM Irish Studies Program. It tells the story of Irish immigration westward to the lush and mineral-rich mountains and prairies of Montana and gives retrospective into the lives of the immigrants.

Along with archival items, “From Rocky Shores to the Rocky Mountains” will feature oral histories collected over the past two years by ‘The Gathering.’ The Mansfield Library houses these interviews with more than 160 Montanans of Irish descent.

When one interviewee, Ann Loughlin of Missoula, held up a photo of herself standing in the Irish countryside of her ancestors, she describes herself as part of the landscape.

“I just feel like I’ve gone home,” Loughlin said in her oral history. “I’ve not ever experienced that phenomenon before.”

That connection to a rare and magical heritage resonates with other descendants of the Irish who left their native soil. Stories like Loughlin’s will be on display in “From Rocky Shores to the Rocky Mountains” from March 1 to mid-April on the main floor of the library. It is free and open to the public.

The exhibit debuted at the University College Cork in Ireland last summer and in Butte in January. It was produced with support from UM, the Irish Government Department of Foreign Affairs Emigrant Support Programme, Northwestern Energy, The Friends of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, Humanities Montana and UCC.

For more information call UM Assistant Professor Bernadette Sweeney, research director of “The Gathering,” at 406-243-2998 or email bernadette.sweeney@mso.umt.edu; call Bob O’Boyle, project director of “The Gathering,” at 406-531-3045; or call the Mansfield Library at 406-243-6800. More information about “The Gathering” is available online at http://www.cas.umt.edu/thegathering/.

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State, Hometowns

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Contact: Bernadette Sweeney, research director, "The Gathering", 406-243-2998, bernadette.sweeney@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

Nearly $45 million were spent by nonresidents of the Beartooth region in the three gateway communities of Red Lodge, Cooke City and Cody, Wy., during the four-month summer season of the Beartooth All-American Road, according to a study conducted by The University of Montana Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research.

Red Lodge and Cooke City received nearly $25 million in combined economic contributions, and Cody received $20 million from nonresident spending. Ninety-one percent of travelers on the highway were from outside the three gateway counties and were from all 50 states, all seven Canadian provinces and 30 foreign countries.

Jake Jorgenson, UM College of Forestry and Conservation graduate student, collected the data as part of his thesis.

"Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this study is how important the designation of a scenic byway was to the people traveling the Beartooth Highway," Jorgenson said. "In fact, 32 percent of the nonresidents primarily traveled the highway because of its designation, which was the highest reason of all, and 54 percent actually indicated the highway was a destination, not just a travel route to somewhere else."

The Beartooth Highway is a 68-mile travel corridor that reaches nearly 11,000 feet in elevation with sweeping vistas of snow-covered ridges, high plateau views, lakes and trails. A 54-mile segment of the road is designated as the Beartooth All-American Road, one of only 31 All-American Roads highlighted as the most scenic byways in the U.S.

Results of the study also included:

- The most frequently reported visitor motivations for traveling the Beartooth Highway included scenic beauty, natural surroundings and open space.
- First-time visitors of the highway made up 44 percent of all nonresident travelers. Their emotional response to the high alpine road was more reserved, nervous and stressed compared to repeat visitors, but first-time visitors enjoyed the Beartooth Highway as much as repeat visitors.
- Travelers along the Beartooth Highway spent an average of two nights in the region. About half of them also spent time in Yellowstone National Park, one quarter of whom spent at least one night in Billings, West Yellowstone or Jackson, Wy.

No visitor research has been conducted on the Beartooth Highway in the past. This new report provides information for policymakers, marketers and businesses of the gateway communities.


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BP

State, Hometowns

022013bear

Contact: Norma Nickerson, director, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, 406-243-2328, norma.nickerson@umontana.edu.
The 2013 Chamberlin Rail Jam will combine the complementary cultures of electronic and hip-hop music with winter sport culture in a two-day festival Friday and Saturday, March 8-9, at Caras Park in downtown Missoula.

The festival celebrates the sounds and sensations of winter culture. It has grown and evolved to combine aspects of entertainment, competition and celebration.

Ski and snowboard competitions will be held both days at Caras Park and musical acts include Ebrola Syndicate, Gramatik, Minnesota, ProtoHype and DCarls. An after party will be held at 9 p.m. Friday at Monk’s Bar at 225 Ryman St. and will feature Eliot Lipp, Ebrola Syndicate and SixPointPros.

Tickets cost $20 to $40 and are available at Rockin Rudy’s or online at http://therailjam.com/lineup/mso. Sponsors of the Chamberlin Rail Jam are UM Productions, KGBA Radio 89.9 FM, 107.5 Zoo FM, 96.3 The Blaze, Mellow Mood, We Ride for Tanner, Big Sky Brewing Co., Bob Ward & Sons, Missoula Tourism Business Improvement District, Quality Inn, Broadway Inn and Best Western Plus.

For more information call Zoe Donovan, UM Productions marketing coordinator, at 406-243-4719 or email marketing@umproductions.org.

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BP

Western Montana

022013rail

Contact: Zoe Donovan, marketing coordinator, UM Productions, 460-243-4719, marketing@umproductions.org.
MISSOULA –

The City of Missoula, The University of Montana and Missoula County invite all Missoula residents to a public conversation about the state of the Missoula community at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21.

Mayor John Engen, UM President Royce Engstrom and County Commissioner Jean Curtiss will lead the event for the Missoula community in the Montana Theatre of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center on the UM campus.

“I’m looking forward to sharing the stage with Mayor Engen and President Engstrom and talking about our work over the past year with our community,” Commissioner Curtiss said. “It’s a great chance to hear what’s on people’s minds, too.”

At this second-annual event, the three leaders will discuss the innovations and collaborations of the past year and talk about the work they’re undertaking. Following their remarks, they’ll answer questions from audience members.

“We’ve designed this forum to expand our audience and share with more of the folks we serve the story of what we’re doing every day to make our community a better place,” Mayor Engen said. “We hope to hear thoughtful questions and learn more about what’s important to our constituents.”

Associated Students of UM President Zach Brown will moderate the event. Brown will coordinate questions directly from audience members at microphones and written questions collected by staff members.

“Our community becomes stronger the more we work together and share ideas that work well,” Engstrom said. “We appreciate this opportunity to hear feedback from our fellow Missoulians.”

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Contact: Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, peggy.kuhr@mso.umt.edu; Ginny Merriam, City of Missoula public information/communications director, 406-552-6007, gmerriam@ci.missoula.mt.us; Anne Hughes, Missoula County communications and project manager, 406-258-4877, ahughes@co.missoula.mt.us.
MISSOULA –

The Montana Book Award recognized University of Montana biology Professor Kerry Foresman for his book “Mammals of Montana,” which was named a 2012 Honor Book.

Being recognized as a 2012 Honor Book “demonstrated that we were able to put the book together and reach a wide audience,” Foresman said. “Mammals of Montana” is used as a text book in university classes as well as a reference for K-12 programs in Montana and by many federal and state agencies.

“Mammals of Montana” is a comprehensive and illustrated account of ecology, behavior, distribution and reproduction of 109 Montana mammals. The book includes more than 500 color photographs, many by renowned wildlife photographers Alexander Badyaev and Milo Burcham. Foresman also discusses reintroduction efforts for species close to extinction and the effects of climate change on Montana wildlife.

“It’s really quite an honor,” Foresman said of being recognized. “There were a huge number of books that could be considered and it’s really nice to be a part of that group.”

The annual Montana Book Award was established in 2001 to recognize literary and artistic excellence in a book published in the award year. Books that are set in Montana, that deal with Montana themes or issues or that are written, edited or illustrated by a Montana author or artist are eligible for the award. Books for all ages are considered for the award.

For more information call Foresman at 406-243-4492 or email kerry.foresman@umontana.edu.

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Campus

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Contact: Kerry Foresman, professor, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 406-243-4492, kerry.foresman@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

A former University of Montana art faculty member and her associate have teamed to present “Middle West,” a new exhibit. Former UM Adjunct Professor Nicole Pietrantoni and Amy Sacksteder, associate professor of art at Eastern Michigan University, work together as the two-person team “Island Projects.” The exhibit will be on display from Feb. 25 to March 29 at the University Center Art Gallery.

An opening reception for the exhibit will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28, at the UC Gallery on the second floor of the UC. The event is free and open to the public.

“Middle West” explores landscape, place and the idea of the West. With a shared interest in the relationship between human beings and nature, Pietrantoni and Sacksteder investigate nature as an accumulation of processes, perceptions and narratives.

The UC Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday during the academic year. To learn more visit [http://www.umt.edu/ucg](http://www.umt.edu/ucg); call Gwen Landquist, UC marketing and art manager, at 406-243-5555 or email gwen.landquist@mso.umt.edu; or call UC Gallery Co-Student Coordinators Kristina Myer and Sabrina Charlson at 406-243-5564 or email ucartgallery@mso.umt.edu.

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MP

Campus

021913midw

**Contact:** Gwen Landquist, UC marketing and art manager, 406-243-5555, gwen.landquist@mso.umt.edu; Kristina Myer and Sabrina Charlson, UC Gallery student coordinators, 406-243-5564, ucartgallery@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

University of Montana freshman Maojie Xia will travel to Tokyo on Saturday, Feb. 23, to compete in the 11th annual World Students GO OZA Championships. The tournament features the top 16 student Go players in the world, and Xia is the only U.S. university student in the competition.

Go is a board game for two players that originated in China more than 2,000 years ago. Though the rules are simple, the game is rich in strategy. Players alternately place black and white stones on a board checkered by 19 vertical and 19 horizontal lines in an attempt to enclose the larger area. Go is extremely popular in East Asia, and in Western culture often is compared to chess.

Xia, 21, has played Go since he was 6 years old. He came to UM through the University’s exchange program with the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu, China. He plans to stay at UM for the next three years to complete his bachelor’s in accounting through the UM School of Business Administration.

Xia said he is excited to participate in the world championships. When he was young, he decided to pursue Go more seriously and trained with professional Chinese players. However, when he moved to the U.S. and tried to find people to play with, he didn’t have much luck.

"Not many people play Go in America," he said. "If more people want to learn to play Go, they will love the game. I think it’s the most complex game in the world."

Xia did find players to compete with online, which is how the World Students GO OZA preliminary rounds were held in early December. The preliminaries for this region included students from North and Latin American/Caribbean universities. Most of the other players represent East Asian countries, but some also come from Europe, Africa and South America.

Competitors in the world championships must be amateur, undergraduate university students under the age of 30. Because the competition is for students, Xia will represent UM in the tournament, and University groups and faculty helped contribute funds for his trip to Tokyo.

Talking with Xia, it's clear to see that he loves the game. Matches can last a few hours or an entire day. The longest game he has played lasted three hours and ended due to a competition time limit. But despite the common comparison to chess, Xia says Go is more complex.

"A computer can beat the best chess player in the world," he said. "But no computer can beat the best Go player in the world. I can beat any computer."

For more information call UM International Programs Specialist David Aronofsky at 406-243-4668 or email aronofskyd@mso.umt.edu, or email Xia at maojie.xia@umontana.edu.

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Photo caption: Maojie Xia, center, plays a game of Go. Xia, an international student from China, will represent The University of Montana as the only U.S. university student to compete in the 11th annual World Students GO OZA Championships in Tokyo. (Courtesy photo)

BP

State, National

021913maoj
**Contact:** David Aronofsky, international programs specialist, adjunct professor and attorney in the UM Office of Legal Counsel, 406-243-4668, aronofskyd@mso.umt.edu; Maojie Xia, UM student, UM student.
MISSOULA –

The University of Montana has hired Lucy France as legal counsel after a national search. She officially begins her new duties Feb. 20.

The UM legal counsel reports to the UM president and serves on the University’s senior management team. The counsel manages all legal issues affecting the University and represents UM in all legal and administrative forums. The UM legal counsel is part of the Montana University System legal team and consequently works closely with the attorneys in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and Montana State University.

“The University’s legal counsel position is complex, requiring a broad base of knowledge in higher education law,” UM President Royce Engstrom said. “Lucy France is highly regarded as a problem solver and as someone who addresses legal issues in a fair manner, informed by detailed knowledge of the law.”

France has directed UM’s Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Office since 2008 and will continue in that role until the next director is hired. She earned her UM law degree with honors in 1993.

“She has accumulated that knowledge through her work at UM these past years,” Engstrom said. “She has been a tremendous asset to the University and will continue to be so in her new role.”


“I don’t take the responsibility of my new position lightly,” France said. “I pledge to the University and the larger community that I will work hard to carry out these important responsibilities in a professional and thoughtful manner.”

Among her many UM duties, France has chaired or co-chaired the Diversity Advisory Council since 2009. She also chairs the Diversity Task Force, which resulted in a campus wide Diversity Strategic Plan, and she led the diversity standard for NCAA accreditation. She also completed the Title IX audit for Grizzly Athletics.

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Contact: Lucy France, UM legal counsel, 406-243-5710, lucy.france@umontana.edu

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February 15, 2013
MISSOULA –

The award-winning Christian pop-rock group Newsboys will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 10, at the Adams Center as part of their “God’s Not Dead” tour. Fellow Christian bands Building 429, All Things New and Campbell will open for Newsboys.

Newsboys have released 16 studio albums since the mid-1980s. Their most recent CD, “God’s Not Dead,” was released in November 2011. Its title track topped contemporary hit radio charts for seven consecutive weeks. Newsboys won five Dove Awards from 1995 to 2001 and have been nominated several times for the Grammy Awards.

In partnership with the sponsorship program Compassion International, Newsboys has helped find sponsors for more than 4,000 children. Newsboys also has teamed with I Am Second, a nonprofit Christian organization and multimedia movement, to recruit 3,200 people as “Seconds,” individuals who commit to sharing the effects of their faith through the organization’s website.

Tickets are available online at http://www.griztix.com or by phone at 406-243-4051. Ticket prices range from $25 to $30 plus fees. VIP packages are available for $75 and include a preshow experience with Newsboys at 5 p.m. and an autographed poster. Groups of 10 or more qualify for a $2.50 discount per ticket.

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Contact: Adrien Wingard, events and promotions coordinator, Adams Center, 406-243-7403, adrien.wingard@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

A 2009 graduate of The University of Montana School of Journalism radio-television program has two films selected for the 10th annual Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, which kicks off this weekend in Missoula.

Rob Norton of Brisbane, Australia, will show two short films during the festival, one of which was produced with fellow School of Journalism graduate Dan Boyce. Norton filmed “Axe Man” during summer 2012 in Darwin, Australia. The short film follows Steve Sunk as he makes weapons using ancient techniques. Like his knives, Sunk has a tough exterior with an underlying gracefulness. “Axe Man” will air at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Wilma Theatre, located at 131 S. Higgins Ave. in downtown Missoula.

Norton worked with Boyce on a second film accepted into the festival. “Bart” tells the tale of a drifter and musician who rolled into the Helena farmers market one Saturday, attracting attention with his guitar, fiddle and boisterous drinking songs. That film will screen at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Crystal Theatre, located at 515 S. Higgins Ave.

As a student at UM’s Department of Radio-Television, Norton worked on the award-winning student documentary “Unspoken.” He moved back to Brisbane after graduation and runs a video production company there.

Boyce interned at Loopline Film in Dublin as a UM student. He now works as Montana Public Radio’s Capitol Bureau chief and is a special projects producer for Montana Public Television.

The Big Sky Documentary Film Festival begins Friday, Feb. 15, and runs through Sunday, Feb. 24. Learn more about the festival at http://www.bigskyfilmfest.org/.

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Contact: Denise Dowling, interim dean, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-4143, denise.dowling@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The University of Montana reports a slight reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions after completing a biannual update required by the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.

UM’s second update was completed in January and showed a 2 percent drop in emissions between Fiscal Year 2010 and FY 2011. Emissions increased slightly in FY 2012, but were still lower than FY 2010 by 1.7 percent. These figures were not normalized for weather, growth and other factors. The total amount of carbon not emitted by UM in FY 2011 and FY 2012, compared to FY 2010, is equivalent to taking 458 vehicles off the road for a year.

“The reduction in UM’s carbon footprint is worth celebrating,” said Cherie Peacock, UM sustainability coordinator. “Even though we have a long way to go to become carbon neutral, this is a step in the right direction. The University consumed less electricity over the past two years, which is a result of energy efficiency measures, such as lighting upgrades, installed in existing buildings.”

In February 2007, then-UM President George Dennison became a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. By signing the agreement, Dennison pledged to make UM more sustainable, with the ultimate goal of neutralizing greenhouse gas emissions on campus.

For more information call Peacock at 406-243-6001 or email cherie.peacock@mso.umt.edu.

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Western Montana

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Contact: Cherie Peacock, UM sustainability coordinator, 406-243-6001, cherie.peacock@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

Award-winning author and scientist Robin Kimmerer will give a public lecture at The University of Montana at 10 a.m., Friday, March 1, in the University Center Theater. Her talk, “Renewing Reciprocity: Traditional Knowledge and Restoration,” will explore ecological knowledge of indigenous peoples and how it might guide the science of ecological restoration. The event is free and open to the public.

Kimmerer is a professor of environmental biology at the State University of New York’s College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York. She is the founding director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment and the author of “Gathering Moss,” for which she was awarded the John Burroughs Medal for Nature Writing in 2005.

Kimmerer will serve as a mentor for the third annual Native Science Fellows Gathering at UM. Hopa Mountain, a Bozeman-based nonprofit organization, and the Blackfeet Native Science Field Center at Blackfeet Community College organize the program.

The program provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to participate with community-based science organizations in an effort to increase their engagement in higher education and geosciences careers. The Native American Natural Resources Program in the College of Forestry and Conservation hosts UM’s Native Science Fellows. The Native Science Fellows program currently supports 20 American Indian students that attend UM, Montana State University-Bozeman, Blackfeet Community College, Salish Kootenai College, and Little Big Horn Community College.

In collaboration with tribal partners, Kimmerer has an active research program in the ecology and restoration of plants of cultural significance to Native people. She is active in efforts to broaden access to environmental science training for Native American students. She has served as a writer-in-residence at the Long Term Ecological Reflections, the Blue Mountain Center, the Sitka Center and the Mesa Refuge.

Her second book is forthcoming from Milkweed Editions, “Braiding Sweetgrass.” Her literary essays appear in Whole Terrain, Adirondack Life, Orion and several anthologies. Kimmerer is the co-founder and past president of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge section of the Ecological Society of America. She is an enrolled member of the Citizen Band Potawatomi.

For more information about the lecture or the Native Science Fellows program, call Hopa Mountain at 406-586-2455, email info@hopamountain.org or call Native American Natural Resources Program Leader Rachel Smith at 406-243-5561 or email rachel.smith@umontana.edu.

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Campus

02132013

Contact: Rachel Smith, Native American Natural Resources Program leader, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-5561, rachel.smith@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The University Players will present the second annual “24 Hour Play Festival” at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 17, in McGill Hall Room 210 at The University of Montana. The event is free and open to the public.

Six writers will receive their subject matter on Saturday, Feb. 16. They will have a few hours to develop a script before handing it over to six directors and 16 actors who will begin a marathon of rehearsals culminating in six performances on Sunday, Feb. 17.

University Players is a student-run, student-directed theatre troupe at UM. Sponsored by the School of Theatre & Dance, the University Players produce the annual “Ten Minute Play Festival,” stage readings and improvisation performances during the academic year.

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JS

Local

021312fest

Contact: Stephen Seder, artistic director, University Players, 406-208-1708, stephen.seder@umconnect.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

Thesis exhibitions by Master of Fine Arts graduate students Dean Foster, Ron Geibel and Burke Jam will be on display Feb. 21-March 6 in the Gallery of Visual Arts at The University of Montana. An opening reception for the exhibits will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21. All events and exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Foster’s exhibition “Where I come from/Where I am” features ceramic mixed media works and video installation. The works reference the artist’s Midwestern upbringing in Michigan and his relationship with living in Montana.

Geibel’s ceramic installation “Unapologetic” is influenced by traditional social-marketing tools that use public formats comparable to billboards, neon signs and marquees. He uses these strategies to display objects that reference the most private parts of people’s lives that are typically kept hidden such as sexuality, gender and identity. His body of work questions our awareness of self and of others through an artistic process that explores the intersections of the public and private spheres.

“The Shadow of Polaris” by Jam incorporates sound, sculpture and a one-night-only site performance held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 1, in UM’s Music Recital Hall. Jam’s work explores the role of sound and physical place in the visual arts. Using a combination of analogue and digital processes and experimental media, this multidisciplinary exhibition and performance invite the viewer to reconsider how we perceive our world and our role within it.

The Gallery of Visual Arts is located on the first floor of the Social Science Building. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday. Mondays are available by appointment only.

More information about the UM School of Art is online at http://www.umt.edu/art.

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CM/all

Local, campus

021113gall

Contact: Cathryn Mallory, director, UM Gallery of Visual Arts, 406-243-2813, gallery.visarts@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

Three top programs at The University of Montana – creative writing, organismal biology and ecology, and wildlife biology – recently were named Programs of National Distinction (PoND).

The three were selected by UM’s Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for the honor, which aims to maintain or stimulate development of programs of national or world-class excellence.

“There are many strong programs at UM,” Provost Perry Brown said, “but our desire has been to identify those that have national distinction based upon several criteria and then to provide resources to assist these programs to enhance this distinction – to be among the very best in the nation.”

During autumn semester, more than 30 UM programs and departments submitted short funding proposals in a competitive contest. Units had to demonstrate how they qualify for PoND designation by addressing characteristics such as scholarly output, quality of students and educational outcomes. Programs also revealed how they influence policy, research, creative scholarship and education from the local to international levels.

Additionally, programs demonstrated how they help assist with the five strategic issues outlined in UM’s strategic plan, “UM 2020: Building a University for the Global Century,” which is online at http://www.umt.edu/2020. They also outlined the projected use of financial resources to help maintain or enhance national distinction.

The three directors of the winning programs were enthusiastic about the recognition.

“UM’s Creative Writing Program is one of our nation’s oldest and most prestigious writing programs,” Director Judy Blunt said. “PoND status will afford us a competitive edge in terms of recruiting the most talented students and will help us maintain our place in the top tier of creative writing programs nationwide.”

“This recognition is a wonderful honor for all who have participated in the Wildlife Biology Program over the past 75 years,” Director Dan Pletscher said. “Les Pengelly, John Craighead and Phil Wright provided a tremendous legacy in wildlife conservation carried on today by our alumni and current faculty members such as Scott Mills, Tom Martin and Erick Greene. With this recognition at a time when wildlife and conservation are more important than ever, the best is yet to come.”

“Graduate students are the heart of the Organismal Biology and Ecology Program, and the resources infused via PoND funding will provide a diverse, rich array of improved funding and research opportunities for these students,” Director Bret Tobalske said. “PoND funding will also boost national and international activities in the OBE program in line with the University’s Global Leadership Initiative.”

The University will solicit more proposals in the future to allow other deserving programs the opportunity for sustained growth and development.

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**Additional contacts:** Judy Blunt, Creative Writing Program director, 406-243-2275, bluntj@mso.umt.edu; Dan Pletscher, Wildlife Biology Program director, 406-243-6364, dan.pletscher@umontana.edu; Bret Tobalske, Organismal Biology and Ecology Program director, 406-243-6631, bret.tobalske@mso.umt.edu.

CC/cbs

State

021313dist

**Contact:** Perry Brown, UM provost, 406-243-4689, perry.brown@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

Joy W’Njuguna, founder and chief operations officer of Royal Tea of Kenya LLC, will present a lecture titled “Lessons from the World’s Oldest Tea Farmer: Small-Scale Farming and Kenya’s Environmental Renaissance” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, in the North Underground Lecture Hall at The University of Montana. The event is free and open to the public.

W’Njuguna hails from one of Kenya’s oldest tea families. She learned the tea business and sustainable farming from her father, Samuel W’Njuguna, and noticed early on how pricing structure benefited farmers. Her father has long championed small-scale tea farmers and was instrumental in the privatization of the Kenya Tea Development Agency. In 2000, he rallied small-scale farmers to vote for the creation of a government-free tea cooperative that ended up with 65 factories and more than 580,000 tea farmers. Her grandfather, Arthur Komo, is the patriarch of her tea family and one of the oldest tea farmers in the world. At 112, he still oversees his lush ancestral tea land.

W’Njuguna will relate lessons she’s learned about business and tea farming from her family. Her own experience spans four continents and her education in international affairs and politics has helped her understand the socio-political climate in Kenya and the U.S.

The lecture is sponsored by the UM Environmental Studies Program, the Global Leadership Initiative, International Programs and the Lake Missoula Tea Company.

W’Njuguna also will be the honored guest at a tea tasting from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at Lake Missoula Tea Company’s shop and tea bar at 126 E. Broadway St., on the second floor of the historic Masonic Hall in downtown Missoula.

For more information call UM environmental studies Associate Professor Dan Spencer at 406-243-6111 or email daniel.spencer@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Dan Spencer, associate professor, UM Environmental Studies Program, 406-243-6111, daniel.spencer@umontana.edu
MISSOULA –

Postcolonial theory expert and University of Chicago Professor Leela Gandhi will present a lecture titled “Globalizing Gandhian Ethics” during The University of Montana President’s Lecture Series at 8 p.m. Monday, March 4, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre.

Gandhi, the great-granddaughter of Indian nationalist leader Mohandas Gandhi, also will present a seminar co-sponsored by the UM Philosophy Forum titled “The Common Cause: Postcolonial Ethics and the Practice of Democracy, 1900-1955” earlier that same day from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123.

Gandhi has taught at universities in India, Australia, Italy, Denmark, Iran and the U.S. At Chicago, she is a senior faculty fellow on the Committee of Southern Asian Cultures and Societies and the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory. Her courses cover radical ethics, postcolonial theory, philosophy, literature, Anglophone literature, anticolonial thought and transnational literary and critical theory. In 1997, she helped to found the journal Postcolonial Studies. In 2007, she began as a co-editor of Postcolonial Politics, an ongoing Routledge book series.


The President’s Lecture Series at UM consists of 10 talks on vital topics by distinguished guest speakers throughout the academic year. For more information on the series, visit http://umt.edu/president/events/lectures/ or call UM history Professor Richard Drake at 406-243-2981.

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BP

Local

021213pres

Contact: Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@mso.umt.edu.
Acclaimed artist Richard Diebenkorn’s masterpiece “Horizon–Ocean View” is on public display in The University of Montana Office of the President reception area in Main Hall through May 24. The painting is on loan to the Montana Museum of Art & Culture through a private collection.

Diebenkorn is known for late modernist paintings characterized by geometric forms, a bright palette and thick brushwork influenced by distinctive California light. Considered one of the most important American painters of his generation, Diebenkorn reinvented representational painting in the 1950s. Though well established as an abstract painter, he suddenly began to work in a representational mode, creating landscapes, figure studies and still lifes. During this time, he and a group of fellow artists became known as the Bay Area Figure Painters.

Diebenkorn created representational paintings between 1955 and 1966. His work from this period is characterized by relatively flat areas of color, unusual perspectives and the division of space by strong lines. In these paintings, he evokes the hazy coastal light of southern California. Diebenkorn’s landscapes of this era became important precursors to the abstract paintings and drawings known as the Ocean Park series, the work for which he is best known.

He grew up in San Francisco and attended Stanford University and the San Francisco Art Institute. In 1956, he showed the first of nine exhibitions at the influential Poindexter Gallery in New York City, which furthered his national reputation and shifted the focus of the art world to California. “Horizon–Ocean View” was included in his 1997 retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

The painting is available for viewing during the Office of the President’s public hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except during University holidays.

For more information call MMAC at 406-243-2019 or go to the museum’s website at [http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum](http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum).

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**NOTE TO MEDIA:** For digital images call Shawn Whitworth at 406-243-2019 or email shawn.whitworth@mso.umt.edu.

BP

Local

021113mmac

**Contact:** Brandon Reintjes, curator of art, Montana Museum of Art and Culture, 406-243-2019, brandon.reintjes@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

The College of Forestry and Conservation at The University of Montana celebrates its centennial this year. Authorized by the state legislature in 1913, the school formally opened in September 1914.

UM’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library recently prepared both an online and physical display of the college’s history. The online display at http://exhibits.lib.umt.edu/forestry features an interactive timeline of the college’s history and a collection of photos and other artifacts. Find the physical exhibit in the Theta Rho Room on the library’s fourth floor.

“The college has a proud history of educating natural resource leaders, and we’re so pleased that these exhibits showcase the accomplishments of our students and faculty over the past 100 years,” forestry Dean Jim Burchfield said.

“Forestry has become so much more than just a degree program,” said Carlie Magill, the archives specialist who created both exhibits. “It’s established its own culture and traditions that include unique student field experiences, an internationally recognized faculty and the annual events of the iconic Forestry Club.”

The history includes well-known faculty such as Arnold Bolle and long-running student events like the Foresters’ Ball. Starting with 25 students and one area of study, the college now boasts nearly 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students and 17 degree options.

“The Mansfield Library is pleased to collaborate with the College of Forestry and Conservation to help celebrate this milestone,” library Dean Shali Zhang said. “We are hopeful that the exhibit will encourage further exploration and access of the rich collections of both published and archival material documenting forestry and conservation in the region.”

The college will mark its centennial with a series of events this fall, including a banquet on Sept. 20. More details are online at http://www.cfc.umt.edu/centennial/.

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LS/cbs

State

020713fors

Contact: Donna McCrea, head of UM Archives and Special Collections, 406-243-4403, donna.mccrea@umontana.edu; Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

Eight Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA members raised their right hands to take the oath of service before Montana Lt. Gov. John Walsh on Jan. 24 at the State Capitol Building in Helena. The new national-service members will work to fight poverty in communities around Montana in the coming year.

The volunteers work with campus partners to further community-driven, anti-poverty efforts in the areas of education, veterans/military-family support, economic opportunity and healthy futures. Some of this year’s projects include creating local college-access networks, developing programming for K-12 success and retention, leveraging volunteers and funding for local nonprofits and evolving education programs for people who are incarcerated.

“MTCC AmeriCorps VISTA members commit a year of their lives to leveraging resources of higher education – student volunteers – to meet critical community needs,” said MTCC VISTA Program Manager Brian Christianson. “When this works, mutually beneficial, long-term partnerships develop between community organizations and higher education institutions, providing college students exciting civic engagement opportunities while addressing the most pressing issues facing their communities.”

In the past year, MTCC VISTA members generated $367,166 in cash and in-kind donations for projects addressing poverty problems in Montana. They also recruited more than 5,000 volunteers who contributed 33,800 hours of service.

The January 2013 class of MTCC VISTA members and their service sites include:

- Kate Ferrara, The University of Montana, Missoula;
- Roch Turner, Bitterroot College of UM, Hamilton;
- Hannah Still, UM and Potomac Schools, Potomac;
- Kristen Hollum, Montana State University-Billings and the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, Red Lodge;
- Alexander Ruiz, Montana Tech of UM, Butte;
- Jakub Weglarczyk, Montana Tech of UM, Anaconda;
- Morgan Bennett, Montana State University and Gallatin County Detention Center, Bozeman;

MTCC VISTA is an AmeriCorps*VISTA program of the Montana Campus Compact made possible through funding provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

MTCC is Montana’s largest higher-education network and works to improve community life by educating students for civic and social responsibility. MTCC member campuses include: Aaniiih Nakoda College, Blackfeet Community College, Carroll College, Dawson Community College, Flathead Valley Community College, Fort Peck Community College, Little Big Horn College, Montana State University-Billings, Montana State University-Bozeman, Montana State University-Great Falls, Montana State University-Northern, Montana Tech of UM, Rocky Mountain College, Salish Kootenai College, UM, UM-Helena, UM Western, University of Great Falls. MTCC also works with campuses in neighboring regional states.

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Contact: Amanda Opitz, AmeriCorps VISTA leader, Montana Campus Compact at UM, 406-243-5451, vistaleader@mtcompact.org.

021113mtcc

February 11, 2013
MISSOULA –

The University of Montana Women’s Resource Center will present a benefit reading of Eve Ensler’s award-winning play “The Vagina Monologues” at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15. The production is a fundraiser for Emma’s House Children’s Advocacy Center of the Bitterroot Valley.

The event is part of V-Day 2013, a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls. Creative productions like “The Vagina Monologues” are performed by volunteers and college students to raise funds and revitalize the spirit of existing antiviolence organizations. The “V” stands for victory, valentine and vagina.

The primary concern of Emma’s House is for the safety of children. The organization strives to reduce trauma and promote healing for children and their families.

“We support and highly value the work of Emma’s House,” said WRC Co-Director Emilie Loran. “Their resources are crucial within their community.”

The WRC is a student-run, activist organization dedicated to raising awareness of women’s and gender issues. The group actively supports the women’s and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community by providing materials and information, sponsoring events, workshops and fundraisers which celebrate humanity while decrying sexism and violence.

Tickets for the show cost $10 and are available online at http://www.griztix.com or at the door the night of the play. Doors open for the show at 6:30 p.m.

For more information call Loran at 406-243-4153 or email umt.wrc@gmail.com.

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BP

Local

021113vday

Contact: Emilie Loran, co-director, UM Women’s Resource Center, 406-243-4153, umt.wrc@gmail.com.
MISSIONA –

Dozens of employers will gather at The University of Montana to offer students and alumni opportunities for full-time and part-time professional positions, internships, summer jobs, research and academic enrichment experiences and more during the 24th annual Big Sky Employment and Academic Enrichment Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

The fair, hosted by the UM Office of Career Services and UM Academic Enrichment, is free for University students and alumni. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom.

This year also will feature academic enrichment programs, which offer students opportunities for volunteering, service learning, undergraduate research, domestic and international internships, study abroad, work abroad and field experiences. Student panels will be held in the UC Theater in the afternoon to provide an insider’s view on ways to get involved in out-of-classroom opportunities.

The event offers recruiting for students in all academic disciplines. Some recruiters will stay the following day to interview candidates for open positions in their organizations.

Students and alumni can view a list of companies attending the fair, sign up for interview slots and add themselves to the OCS mailing list at http://www.umt.edu/career/fairs.htm. Candidates must use their Griz eRecruiting account to sign up for interviews. Students and alumni can set up their free Griz eRecruiting account by calling 406-243-6150.

For more information call Office of Career Services Program Manager Daphne Felker at 406-243-4150 or email daphne.felker@umontana.edu. Employers who would like to host a booth at the fair can register online at http://www.umt.edu/career/fairs.htm.

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BP

Western Montana

021113fair

Contact: Daphne Felker, program manager, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-6150, daphne.felker@umontana.edu.
The size of antlers and horns in 25 trophy categories of big game in North America have declined over the past 108 years, according to data analyzed by a team of scientists including UM Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation Paul Krausman.

Six researchers studied data from 22,000 Boone and Crockett Club records. They found a small, yet consistent 2 percent decline in horn and antler size. The results of their study, "Effects of Harvest, Culture and Climate on Trends in Size of Horn-Like Structures in Trophy Ungulates," were published in the January issue of Wildlife Monographs, a publication of The Wildlife Society.

"The Boone and Crockett Club is the oldest conservation club in the U.S. and the second-oldest in the world," Krausman said. "One of the things the club does is maintain a record of all the horns and antlers of species in North America. They use it as a record of the health of wild populations, but it had never been analyzed."

Evidence moderately supports that an over-harvest of males – which would lower the age structure – allows fewer animals to reach trophy status prior to harvest. The evidence also provides limited support for genetic changes from selective harvest of larger males.

"All of the authors hunt, and initially were quite surprised by the outcomes from their research," said Idaho State University biological sciences Professor Terry Bowyer, who oversaw the initial analyses at ISU. "No other study, however, has spanned the time, geographic extent, simultaneously examined multiple ungulates – big game species – or amassed such a huge sample size."

The article outlines management recommendations to overcome the decline and to address potential causes of smaller horns and antlers. It also notes, however, that the reduction in size of trophy horns and antlers is small. The recreational, management and conservation benefits from hunting may offset the detriments of a small reduction in trophy size.

"It’s statistically significant; it’s really a change," Krausman said. "But biologically it doesn’t make a whole lot of difference."

The authors include Krausman, Kevin Monteith from the University of Wyoming; Bowyer and Ryan Long from ISU; Vernon Bleich with the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Program of the California Department of Fish and Game; James Heffelfinger with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

For more information call Krausman at 406-241-1489 or email paul.krausman@umontana.edu.

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BP

State, National Wildlife Biology

020813antl

**Contact:** Paul Krausman, UM Boone and Crockett professor of wildlife conservation, 406-241-1489, paul.krausman@umontana.edu
MISSOULA –

University of Montana scientists, including Regents Professor of Ecology Steve Running, recently published the cover story for the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society on satellite-based drought monitoring.

The group, including Qiaozhen Mu, Maosheng Zhao, John Kimball and Running, all from UM, and Nathan McDowell from the Los Alamos National Laboratory, developed a satellite-sensed global drought severity index. Accurate mapping and monitoring of drought severity worldwide is needed as water becomes a more valuable and scarce resource.

The scientists first reviewed strengths and weaknesses of common indices already used to monitor and assess global-scale drought. These indices measure precipitation, snowpack, stream flow and other water-supply indicators and are used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other similar organizations. Many existing indices also have some limitations, such as only covering the United States or not monitoring long-term droughts well.

The authors propose a new framework for measuring global drought severity that uses remotely sensed data from NASA’s 
Terra 
and 
Aqua 
satellites. Those satellites collect data from vegetated surfaces to measure changes in greenness and productivity, key indicators of drought conditions.

Their new drought severity index (DSI) includes data from all of the major regional droughts from the past decade. The DSI showed conditions globally at eight-day, monthly and annual intervals. They tested its performance first in the Asia and Pacific regions, where some 23 million hectares – one-fifth of the total rice production area in the region – are drought-prone. Their annual interval DSI accurately documented the high-frequency, intense droughts of this region.

The annual DSI also successfully reported other extreme droughts, such as the 2003 heat wave in Europe and the Great Russian Heat Wave in 2010. The DSI does have some limitations, such as false drought detection in areas where vegetation was damaged by something other than drought.

With further studies and evaluation, the new DSI will become a valuable tool to detect and monitor drought globally. This DSI and similar global products derived from satellite data could be useful for regional drought assessment and mitigation efforts, especially in parts of the world not covered well by current drought-measurement technologies.

In 2012, drought hit Montana, with September being the driest month in state history. Agricultural fields and topsoils were dry, rivers and streams ran low, and wildfires burned more than 1 million acres. Right now, 34 percent of Montana is experiencing drought conditions and nearly 7 percent of the state is in extreme drought. The drought outlook summary released by the National Weather Service on Jan. 17 also states that range and pasture feed conditions in December were rated poor to very poor. The Montana Climate Office intends to produce a weekly version of this DSI covering the entire state beginning in April.

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LS/jh

State

020813runn

Contact: Steve Running, UM Regents Professor of Ecology, 406-243-6311, swr@ntsg.umt.edu; Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The Montana Council for Exceptional Children will honor The University of Montana RiteCare Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic with its Public Service Award during the MCEC Conference of Diverse Abilities in Missoula.

The award will be given during a reception from 4:40 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, in the Missoula Hilton Garden Inn Convention Center Salon Rooms A-C, located at 3720 N Reserve St.

RiteCare, a clinic within the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Services Department of Communicative Science and Disorders, provides speech, language and hearing screenings and consultations, along with diagnostic and therapy services to individuals, focusing on client needs and family priorities. The clinic also serves as a demonstration and observation site for UM undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students, professionals and families.

According to Lucy Hart Paulson, associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication Science and Disorders, the clinic has served hundreds of families since it opened in 1998. Originally, the clinic was a philanthropic project of the Western Montana Scottish Rite, a fraternal arm of the Freemasons that focuses on helping children overcome speech, communication and literacy difficulties.

The clinic can support up to 80 active clients and serves both children and adults. Services provided through RiteCare include communication recovery following a stroke or brain injury; accent correction for people with strong dialects; voice and swallowing treatment; hearing and hearing-aid evaluations; help with fluency or stuttering disorders; a support group to help students with traumatic brain injuries learn coping and study strategies; and toddler, preschool and school-age interventions to enhance both oral communication and literacy.

RiteCare now is run entirely through the CSD department, but with continued support from the Scottish Rite, including scholarships so no family ever is turned away.

"Receiving this award is quite an honor and speaks to the service that has been provided to western Montana," Hart Paulson said.

The MCEC is a nonprofit association which supports special education professionals and others working on behalf of individuals with exceptionalities. The organization focuses mostly on children and adolescents with special needs.

"RiteCare serves the kids and families in our community, and what struck me as a vital public service is that they operate on a scholarship basis in order to see families with limited financial means to provide speech services for kids who had no other way to receive those," said Kathleen Nerison, MCEC Board of Governors member.

Nerison added that the collaboration between RiteCare and Missoula’s public schools and private therapists, their emphasis on early childhood literacy and the research and educational functions of the clinic contribute to the service provided to Missoula and western Montana.

MCEC also will grant the Special Education Research Award to UM Associate Professor Ann Garfinkle, who recently published the Montana Children’s Autism Waiver Report, which documents the results of an intensive early-intervention autism program launched in 2009.

For more information about RiteCare call Hart Paulson at 406-243-2376 or email lucy.hartpaulson@umontana.edu. To read Garfinkle’s report, visit http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/.

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BP

Western Montana

020713mcec
Contact: Lucy Hart Paulson, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders chair and associate professor, UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, 406-243-2376, lucy.hartpaulson@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

This year, the University of Montana ranks No. 12 on Peace Corps’ 2013 Top Colleges for medium schools. The annual list recognizes the highest volunteer-producing colleges and universities for small, medium, large and graduate institutions. There are currently 27 undergraduate alumni from UM serving overseas. UM moved up two spots this year, tying Atlanta’s Emory University and the University of New Hampshire for the No. 12 spot.

"Every year, graduates of colleges and universities across the United States are making a difference in communities overseas through Peace Corps service," said Peace Corps Acting Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet. "As a result of the top-notch education they receive, these graduates are well prepared for the challenge of international service. They become leaders in their host communities and carry the spirit of service and leadership back with them when they return home."

Montana State University also made the list, ranked No. 16. Despite the four-place difference, MSU produced only two fewer volunteers than UM. The top spot in the medium category went to Western Washington University, which produced 73 volunteers, 18 more than the second-place American University.

"Peace Corps announces top colleges annually to recognize the schools that contribute the most alumni making a difference overseas through volunteer service," said Peace Corps West Coast Regional Manager Janet Allen. "We thank and congratulate UM as one of the 23 universities from the West Coast producing globally minded leaders who turn idealism into action as Peace Corps Volunteers."

Recent UM graduate Nathaniel Boise said the University’s International Study Abroad program best prepared him for his Peace Corps service.

"Nepal is a wonderful country full of great and beautiful people," said Boise, who is one of the first volunteers to return to the country of Nepal. "This was the best decision I have ever made."

Currently, more than 8,000 volunteers are working with communities in 76 host countries on projects related to agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health and youth development.

During Peace Corps service, college graduates make a difference in communities overseas. Volunteers return home as global citizens with cross-cultural, leadership, language, teaching and community development skills that position them for advanced education and professional opportunities in today's global job market. Ninety percent of volunteer positions require a bachelor's degree. Americans with backgrounds in agriculture, environment, teaching English as a second language, and other technical or language skills related to Peace Corps assignment areas are encouraged to apply for service one year in advance of their target departure date.

UM is the first public university in the country to partner with the Peace Corps to offer the Peace Corps Preparatory Program. Any UM student can earn a Peace Corps certificate through participation in the international development studies minor in UM’s College of Arts and Sciences.

For more information about the Peace Corps at UM, visit the Office of Career Services, located in Lommasson Center Room 154, or go online to http://www.umt.edu/peacecorps.

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Contact: Brad Haas, Peace Corps representative, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-2839, peacecorps@umontana.edu; Daphne Felker, program manager, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-6150, daphne.felker@umontana.edu

http://news.umt.edu/2013/02/070213rank.aspx [1/22/2018 1:31:34 PM]
University of Montana Associate Professor Ann Garfinkle recently published a report documenting the results of the first 43 children to complete an intensive early-intervention autism program that launched in 2009.

The Montana’s Children’s Autism Waiver Report documents positive outcomes in children who recently completed the intensive three-year program. According to the report, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services’ program that provides early intervention to children age 15 months to 5 years old with autism is “on par with published results from the best national programs” and has been “incredibly successful.”

To determine program effectiveness, the report focused on three common measures, including if the child still exhibits symptoms that would result in an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis, if the child is able to receive general education services and if the child has full, moderate or limited community access.

“The data provided in this report is so encouraging,” said DPHHS Director Richard Opper. “It clearly shows that early intervention works. I want to both thank and congratulate the families who made the commitment to this program over the past three years. It really shows their hard work has paid off. I also want to thank our many providers who helped DPHHS deliver this important service to Montanans all across this state.”

Children from Libby, Kalispell, Polson, Ronan, Missoula, Stevensville, Hamilton, Darby, Choteau, Helena, Townsend, Butte, Bozeman, Livingston, Billings, Miles City, Malta and Glasgow were part of the first group of children to complete therapy under the program.

While the program has improved the lives of children, it has also improved overall family life as well. Some families stated they are now able to be a family and participate in activities together. The report shows that 65 percent of the participants now have full community access. In addition, 65 percent are receiving general education services in public school.

“Many families with autistic children struggle to do many of the things most people take for granted, such as attending local community events,” said Jeff Sturm of the DPHHS Developmental Disabilities Program. “This program has helped so many families.”

The report also states nearly 50 percent of participants no longer exhibit symptoms that would result in an Autism Spectrum Disorders diagnosis. However, according to Garfinkle, the statistic should be interpreted with caution.

“Autism Spectrum Disorder is a life-long disorder and it may be that as these children age, they may need additional support or services,” she said.

According to Garfinkle, the program compares with national results. “These outcomes compare favorably with national published outcomes from other high-quality programs for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder,” she said. “Some of these programs conducted comparison studies that indicate that this type of program at this intensity does yield outcomes in children that are significantly different from children who did not participate in program activity.”

The program is designed to deliver 20 hours a week of direct intervention service to each participant at a cost of about $43,000 per year for each child for a three-year time period. The annual program cost is about $2.1 million. However, many of the participants in the Children’s Autism Waiver Program also are eligible for autism treatment through health insurance. Consequently, the program serves as payer of last resort, meaning the families’ insurance carrier is billed first, and any remaining costs are billed to the program.

In the report, Garfinkle also touches on savings to both the state and families. “While these children may need additional services in the future . . . their functioning level reduces the need for families to miss work or to fund additional therapies,” the report reads. “These savings, while challenging to predict, will be in the millions of dollars.”

Since the Children’s Autism Waiver Program has been implemented, prevalence rates of Autism have continued to increase. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that the prevalence rate is now one in 88 live births.

Autism Spectrum Disorder is four to five times more common in boys than in girls and has been documented in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. Children have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder across the state in all five of Montana’s Developmental Disabilities Program service regions.
In order to be eligible for Children’s Autism Waiver Program services, a child first must be diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and have a significant delay in adaptive behaviors. Adaptive behaviors are age-appropriate skills necessary for people to live and function safely and appropriately in daily life. These are real-life skills such as grooming, dressing, safety, safe-food handling, following school rules, money management, cleaning, making friends, social skills and personal responsibility.

Both the executive summary and full report are available online at http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/.

For more information on the report, call Garfinkle at 406-243-5262 or email ann.garfinkle@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Ann Garfinkle, associate professor, UM Curriculum and Instruction, 406-243-5262, ann.garfinkle@umontana.edu; John Ebelt, public information officer, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, 406-444-0936.
A television documentary produced by students in The University of Montana School of Journalism is a finalist in the 2013 New York Festivals International Television and Film Awards. “Boom! Behind the Bakken” is one of seven student films nominated for a medal in the awards, which honor the world’s best TV and films.

Last spring, 13 UM students traveled to the Bakken oil fields in eastern Montana and western North Dakota to document the impact of oil exploration on people, the economy and the environment. The resulting documentary premiered in May on MontanaPBS and also aired on North Dakota’s Prairie Public Television.

“We knew this subject had great potential, and everyone in the class worked hard to tell a compelling story,” said student producer Beth Beechie. “We are so pleased to see our documentary take flight. Being nominated for this prestigious award is an honor to me and my teammates.”

School of Journalism Interim Dean Denise Dowling and Adjunct Professor Kagan Yochim taught the course that resulted in the documentary.

“This production was unusual in that students had to travel a great distance to an area known for being unsettled,” Dowling said. “They did a tremendous job finding interesting people to tell the story of change and challenge going on in the Bakken.”

The New York Festivals accepts entries from more than 50 countries in dozens of categories designed to mirror global trends and encourage the next generation of storytellers. Along with “Boom! Behind the Bakken,” student film finalists this year are from India, South Africa, Taiwan and the U.S.

“What impressed me most was the group’s ability to come together as a team,” Yochim said. “They each had a job to do and a story to tell, but they put the pieces together in a cohesive program.”

The festival awards ceremony will be held in April in Las Vegas. “Boom! Behind the Bakken” can be viewed online or is available for purchase on DVD at http://www.montanapbs.org/boombehindthebakken/. The student documentary is funded by The Greater Montana Foundation, which has supported its production and other UM student work for more than two decades.

For more information call Dowling at 406-243-4143 or email denise.dowling@umontana.edu.

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Note to media: Photos are available by contacting Dowling.

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Contact: Denise Dowling, interim dean, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-4143, denise.dowling@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The Diversity Advisory Council at The University of Montana invites the campus community to nominate outstanding students for the DAC Student Achievement Awards. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, March 1.

The awards honor students whose leadership promotes campus diversity. Nominations can be made online at http://life.umt.edu/diversity/studentachievementaward.php.

“The Student Achievement Awards recognize students who help the University become more welcoming to all groups and individuals,” said Juana Alcala, the DAC member overseeing the award program. “These students help to create a diverse, dynamic learning environment at UM and we are excited to honor them for their hard work.”

Nominees must have attended UM for one full academic semester during the 2012-13 academic year and be in good academic standing. Students may receive this recognition more than once. A DAC subcommittee receives all nominations and selects students most worthy of the award.

To nominate a student, describe in 200 words or less how he or she has demonstrated leadership, served as a role model and contributed substantially to the ideals of diversity through academic, community, campus or service projects.

The awards are presented each spring during a ceremony and reception sponsored by the UM president and the vice president for student affairs. This year’s reception will be held Monday, March 18.

For more information email Alcala at jalcala@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Juana Alcala, UM Diversity Advisory Council member, 406-243-2049, jalcala@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

Professor Daniel Schindler will deliver a lecture titled “The Challenges of Predicting Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change” as part of the Montana Institute on Ecosystems Distinguished Lecturer Series on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at The University of Montana.

The event will be held at 7 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Science Building Room 110. Light refreshments will be served before the event, which is free and open to the public.

Schindler is the Harriet Bullitt Endowed Chair in Conservation at the University of Washington, where he has been a faculty member since 1997. His research explores the causes and consequences of aquatic ecosystem dynamics.

Schindler studies climate impacts, fisheries as large-scale drivers of ecosystem organization and the interdependencies of terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems. As one of the lead investigators of the UW Alaska Salmon Program, most of his research focuses on salmon-producing watersheds in Alaska.

Schindler received the Distinguished Research Award from the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences at UW. He serves on the editorial boards of Ecology, Ecological Monographs and Ecosystems.

UM’s Institute on Ecosystems Distinguished Lecturer Series provides opportunities for faculty and students to connect with the brightest, most interesting scholars in environmental disciplines.

Approved by the Montana Board of Regents in November 2011, the Institute on Ecosystems is a community of 200 scholars across the Montana University System with the goal of advancing integrated discovery, education and engagement in the environmental and ecosystem sciences. The institute, co-located at UM and Montana State University, is supported by a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

For more information about the lecture, call Program Manager Gay Allison at 406-243-2617 or email gay.allison@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Gay Allison, program manager, Montana Institute on Ecosystems at UM, 406-243-2617, gay.allison@umontana.edu.
The country and gospel group the Oak Ridge Boys will bring their 40th Anniversary Tour to The University of Montana at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre.

The Oak Ridge Boys have released several albums since the late 1970s, including “Y’all Come Back Saloon” and “Fancy Free,” which featured their hit single “Elvira.” They released a new album and a Christmas album in 2012. The group plays more than 150 concerts each year across the U.S. and Canada.

Tickets cost $49.50 and are available for purchase online at http://www.griztix.com, at all Griz Tix locations or by calling 406-243-4051. Doors for the show open at 7 p.m.

The concert is presented by Jade Presents and Dennison Theatre Productions. For more information call Dennison Theatre Director Tom Webster at 406-243-2853 or email thomas.webster@mso.umt.edu. More information about the Oak Ridge Boys can be found at http://www.oakridgeboys.com.

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Contact: Tom Webster, director, UM George and Jane Dennison Theatre, 406-243-2853, thomas.webster@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

The Student Involvement Network at The University of Montana is partnering with UM’s Black Student Union to honor Black History Month with a film series. Films will screen at 7 p.m. each Tuesday in February in the University Center.

The schedule and locations follow:

Feb. 5: “The Confederate States of America,” University Center Theater

Feb. 12: “Cinderella,” University Center Theater

Feb. 19: “Night Catches Us,” University Center Room 330

Feb. 26: “Red Tails,” University Center Room 330

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president officially has designated the month of February as Black History Month.

For more information about the Black History Month Film Series call Jamar Galbreath, program adviser at the UC Student Involvement Network, at 406-243-5776 or email jamar.galbreath@mso.umt.edu; or call Sarah Beals, president of UM’s Black Student Union, at 406-243-2302 or email sarah.beals@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Sarah Beals, president, UM Black Student Union, 303-502-4553, sarah.beals@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The Chinese Student and Scholar Association will host the 2013 Chinese New Year Cultural Tour in the University Center Ballroom at the University of Montana from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9. The event is free and open to the public.

The Chinese New Year is the most important festival in China. The Culture Tour is an exhibition of Chinese culture focusing on aspects of traditions such as calligraphy, philosophy, medicine and the Chinese zodiac. There will be presentations where guests can make paper window flowers and dumplings. CSSA members will perform a traditional Kongfu tea ceremony, a tai chi demonstration and a firecrackers model show.

For more information call CSSA president Lyric Yang Liu at 406-274-3736 or email yang1.liu@umconnect.umt.edu.

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Contact: Lyric Yang Liu, president, UM Chinese Student and Scholar Association, 406-274-3736, yang1.liu@umconnect.umt.edu.
MISSOULA —

The Student Involvement Network of the University Center is bringing the Upright Citizens Brigade to the UC Theater from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12. The 90-minute show costs $3 with a Griz Card and $5 without.

The Upright Citizens Brigade show consists of two halves of long-form improv. The touring company cast is hand-picked from the best improv comedians in New York City and Los Angeles.

The performers are the next wave of comedy superstars. Comedians seen in TV shows The Office and Saturday Night Live and writers from the Colbert Report, the Daily Show with Jon Stewart and MAD TV will be featured in the show. Upright Citizens Brigade alums have starred in popular comedies such as Mean Girls, The Hangover and Bridesmaids.

For more information visit the University Center website at www.umt.edu/uc or call UC Student Involvement Network program adviser Jamar Galbreath at 406-243-5776 or email jamar.galbreath@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Jamar Galbreath, program adviser, UC Student Involvement Network, 406-243-5776, jamar.galbreath@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

The University of Montana invites students, faculty, staff and the general public to explore the excitement of teaching and learning at the University during “Celebrate Academics on Charter Day” from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 13, in the University Center.

The new celebration of academics at UM is held in conjunction with Charter Day, an event marking the anniversary of the University’s founding 120 years ago. The annual Charter Day awards ceremony, which begins at 5:30 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom, will recognize exemplary campus and community members.

“Celebrate Academics on Charter Day” gives participants an opportunity to learn about the innovative ideas and work happening inside and outside the classroom by UM’s world-class faculty members and students.

Peter Schmidt, director of studies at Gill St. Bernard’s School in Gladstone, N.J., and recent winner of The Chronicle of Higher Education’s “Build Your Own College” contest, will deliver a keynote address, titled “Climbing a Different Mountain,” about his work developing new models for higher education based on experiential learning.

“When we have the opportunity to really learn something in depth, it becomes a part of us,” Schmidt recently told The Chronicle of Higher Education.

All events are open to the public and the tentative schedule of events follows:

- 11:30 a.m.: Missoula College Energy Technology Program student presentations, University Center Atrium.
- Noon: Charter Day cupcakes and music student performance, UC Atrium.
- Noon: Fun with Food and Science, Molecular Gastronomy, Eating for Academic Performance and Stimulating Your Brain, One Bite at a Time, Lommasson Center Food Zoo. (Public offered discount price of $6.25 for lunch at the Food Zoo).
- 12:30-2 p.m.: Health and Human Performance, study abroad and experiential learning student presentations, UC Atrium.
- 2:10 p.m.: Select UM classes open to the public, various locations.
- 2:30 p.m.: UM Insights: Professors Lee Banville, Leora Bar-El, Doug Emlen, Sarah Halvorson, Martin Horesji and Cara Nelson reflect on teaching, UC Rooms 326-327.
- 3:30 p.m.: Keynote Address: “Climbing a Different Mountain” by Peter Schmidt, UC Ballroom.
- 4:30 p.m.: Sneak preview of “Jumping into Fire: A Chinese Tale for All Ages,” a performance by UM Theatre & Dance students, UC Ballroom.
- 5:30 p.m.: Charter Day Celebration followed by a reception, UC Ballroom.
- 7:30 p.m.: Bandini-Chiachiaretta Duo, UM Music Recital Hall.

The annual Charter Day awards ceremony also is free and open to the public. Missoula Mayor John Engen will attend the awards ceremony to present an official proclamation of University of Montana Day. A reception will follow the ceremony.

UM Provost Perry Brown will preside over the presentation of 2013 Charter Day awards to the following recipients:

Montana Alumni Award: David A. Bell graduated from UM in 1996 with a degree in finance. This award recognizes a former UM student for extraordinary service to the University. Bell founded and serves on the board of Grateful Nation Montana, the first of its kind in the nation. Grateful Nation provides tutoring, mentoring and a college education for the children of all Montana soldiers killed while on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Associated Students of UM Student Service Award: Sean McQuillan, a sophomore at UM, studying political science and climate change. This award recognizes distinguished service and achievement. McQuillan serves on the ASUM Student Political Action Committee as a student at large. With ASUM, McQuillan worked to promote student engagement by hosting a get-out-the-vote event the night before Election Day.

Robert T. Panter Presidential Humanitarian Award: Larry Gianchetta, dean of the School of Business Administration for more than 27 years. This award recognizes those who create a more humane learning environment at UM. Gianchetta long has been a supporter of humanitarian activities and diversity on the UM campus and was instrumental in bringing diversity to the forefront at the school.
Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award: Rockwood Brown attended UM from 1946 to 1952, earning a bachelor's degree in business and a juris doctorate. This award recognizes extraordinary effort to foster an understanding of UM's needs and strengths throughout the community and the state. After graduating, Brown served as a judge advocate for the U.S. Air Force. He practiced insurance defense litigation with the Brown Law Firm in Billings for 46 years. Since retiring in 1999, he has served as senior vice president-legal and chairman of Wyo-Ben, Inc.

Tom Boone Town and Gown Award: Denise J. Dowling, interim dean of the School of Journalism and associate professor in the Radio-Television Department. This award recognizes faculty members who foster a deeper understanding between the University and Missoula. Dowling joined the UM faculty in 2000. In 2004, she launched a student-produced series of radio programs called "The Footbridge Forum." The very name of the program exemplifies the town-and-gown approach Dowling has taken to offer citizen-generated suggestions to problems affecting the campus and the greater Missoula community.

Outstanding Volunteer Award: Dr. Herbert M. Swick, former executive director of the Institute of Medicine and Humanities. Although officially retired, he continues to teach graduate students in the Master of Public Health program at UM, and medical students at Montana State University. This award recognizes the contribution of many hours of uncompensated time to UM to help meet the needs of the campus community.

Outstanding Service to the External Community Award: Janel Chaffee Queen has just begun her 11th year of service to the School of Business Administration. This award recognizes exceptional service to the off-campus community and positive contributions to the overall mission of the University. Queen created an award-winning career preparation and employer networking program for business students.

John Ruffatto Memorial Award: Cameron Lawrence is the Poe Family Distinguished Faculty Fellow in the School of Business Administration, where he is an associate professor in the Management Information Systems Department. This award recognizes UM faculty who bring practical, applicable business principles into the classroom. Lawrence has been working on transforming classroom-based business education into a model that promotes collaboration, innovation and invention.

George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment: Joel T. Harper, associate professor in the Department of Geosciences. This award recognizes distinguished accomplishments that have brought significant recognition to UM at the regional and national levels. Harper’s research focuses on the mechanics of glacier movement and involves integration of intensive field measurements with numerical analysis and modeling.

George M. Dennison Presidential Staff Award for Distinguished Accomplishment: Mary Kamensky began her 28-year career at UM in 1986. This award recognizes distinguished accomplishment within the employee’s work unit that brings excellence, merit, distinction or glory to UM. Kamensky worked for the Department of Psychology for 11 years and has been the administrative officer in the Graduate School for 17 years.

For more information about “Celebrate Academics on Charter Day” events, call Claudine Cellier, assistant to the provost, at 406-243-4689 or email claudine.cellier@umontana.edu; or call Jay Kettering, UM Office of Alumni Relations on-campus events coordinator, at 406-243-6439 or email jay.kettering@umontana.edu.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Students, faculty, staff and administrations can be available on Feb. 12 for media preview pieces. To make arrangements call Cellier at 406-243-6135. Video preview opportunities also are available on Tuesday, Feb. 12. Times and locations follow:

9-11 a.m.: Missoula Energy Technology student installation preview, Assistant Professor Brad Layton, Missoula College East Campus Griz House 8, located at 905 South Ave W.

6:30-10 p.m.: “Jumping into Fire: A Chinese Tale for All Ages” dance rehearsal, Masquer Theatre, PAR/TV Center.

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Contact: Claudine Cellier, assistant to the UM provost, 406-243-4689, claudine.cellier@umontana.edu; Jay Kettering, UM alumni relations on-campus events coordinator, jay.kettering@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

University of Montana students are teaming up with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital to present the first-ever Up ‘til Dawn event on campus. Up ‘til Dawn is a nationwide collegiate letter-writing fundraiser focused on increasing awareness for the Memphis-based hospital. The event will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, in the University Center Ballroom.

Up ‘til Dawn organizers invite the entire UM student body to gather in teams or as individuals to help “fight cancer in the 406.”

To honor the countless hours of sleep lost by patients and their families through the struggles of pediatric cancer, the event will be held during night hours. Event participants are asked to bring a list of addresses, which they will use to address prewritten letters and send them to family and friends, asking them to help the kids of St. Jude by donating on the UM student’s behalf.

Up ‘til Dawn will provide envelopes and stamps, as well as food, fun, games and activities for all who come. Each individual is asked to write a minimum of 10 letters, but by writing more letters participants will increase their chance to win prizes such as a ski-pass package to local Montana resorts, tickets to Silverwood theme park, gift cards to local restaurants and stores. For writing 35 letters participants will be eligible to win a $250 Visa gift card and for writing 50 letters they will be eligible to win an iPad mini.

To register for free as a team, individual or volunteer, go to http://www.stjude.org/UTD.

Prior to the Feb. 28 letter-writing event, three fundraising events will be held at Missoula restaurants on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, Feb. 6: Buffalo Wild Wings.** Present a coupon to designate a portion of meal proceeds to UM’s Up ‘til Dawn event. Coupons will be dispersed on campus or can be printed online at https://www.facebook.com/UMUpTilDawn.

- **5-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8: U-Swirl Frozen Yogurt.** Present a coupon to designate a portion of proceeds to UM’s Up ‘til Dawn event. Coupons can be printed online at https://www.facebook.com/UMUpTilDawn.

- **6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19: Tamarack Brewery.** For every pint of beer sold, 75 cents will support UM’s Up ‘til Dawn event.

To continue pediatric cancer treatment and research, St. Jude spends $1.8 million dollars every day. Because of donations, St. Jude is able to provide treatment, research, housing and travel for children at no cost. Patients and their families are never asked to pay for anything. St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases; fulfilling founder Danny Thomas’ dream that “no child will die in the dawn of life.”

For more information about the event, go to https://www.facebook.com/UMUpTilDawn or learn more at http://www.stjude.org/utd.

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Contact: Aaron Conn, UM student, 406-202-2731, aaronconn@live.com.