May 2014 news releases

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UM History Student Named First Dennison Doctoral Fellow

May 30, 2014

MISSOULA – The spring semester was just coming to a close when Patrick O'Connor received the news. The University of Montana Department of History doctoral candidate will be the first George M. and Jane I. Dennison Doctoral Fellow.

“The Dennison Fellowship will support my work in a number of ways,” said O’Connor, whose research focuses primarily on the social, political and intellectual histories of 19th-century America. “First, it relieves me of some teaching duties. With that time I can travel to archives, attend conferences and devote myself more fully to my project. The additional financial resources are also helpful, as the research process can become costly.”

The George M. and Jane I. Dennison Doctoral Fellows in History Endowment was initially established by trustees of the UM Foundation, UM alumni and members of the local community to honor former UM President George Dennison and his wife, Jane, for the many contributions they have made to the University. The endowment supports fellowships in the UM history department, where Dennison earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees.
“Patrick’s important research agenda explores the problem of urban public health in the United States at the turn of the 20th century,” UM history Professor Kyle Volk said of O’Connor’s work. “The Dennison Fellowship will transform Pat’s career as a graduate student by providing him the critical resources needed to engage in deeper – and likely more distant – research and to craft a more significant doctoral dissertation.”

Contributions to the George M. and Jane I. Dennison Doctoral Fellows in History Endowment can be made online at http://www.supportum.org or mailed to the UM Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807. For more information about the endowment, call Ric Thomas at 406-243-5615 or email ric.thomas@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Ian Withrow, media and information coordinator, UM College of Humanities and Sciences, 406-243-2632, ian.withrow@mso.umt.edu.
UM Fire Science Professor Honored With Lifetime Achievement Award

May 28, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana College of Forestry and Conservation fire science Professor Ron Wakimoto recently received the Biswell Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Fire Ecology.

The award, named for fire ecologist Harold Biswell, was given during the AFE’s Large Wildland Fires conference, held May 19-23 in Missoula. The AFE gives up to three lifetime achievement awards each year to individuals who have made a significant contribution to fire ecology and management in the U.S. and have inspired and mentored a generation of fire ecologists.

Wakimoto was one of three doctoral students who studied under Professor Biswell at the University of California, Berkeley, who have received the honor. Wakimoto has a B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. from Berkeley and has taught at UM since 1982.

Wakimoto began his teaching career at Berkeley in 1976. While at the UM College of Forestry and Conservation, he has taught courses in wildland fire management, fuel management and fire ecology. He was chair of the Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences from 2005 to 2011.
Wakimoto served on the National Fire Policy Review team following the Yellowstone National Park fires in 1988 and has testified to the U.S. Congress on fire policy.

In 2004, Wakimoto was elected a fellow by the Society of American Foresters. He served the SAF from 1990 to 1994 as chair for student affairs and currently is a member of the committee on accreditation.

Since 2006, Wakimoto has led international efforts to train Bhutanese foresters and provided fire training to more than 200 Bhutanese forest managers and volunteers.

Biswell, a longtime faculty member at Berkeley, was one of the first fire scientists to highlight the important role of fire in healthy forest ecosystems and pioneered the use of controlled burns.

For more information call Leana Schelvan, director of communications for the UM College of Forestry and Conservation, at 406-243-6693 or email leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.
Flathead Lake Biological Station Surpasses Fundraising Challenge

May 27, 2014

POLSON – The 2014 summer season starts with a celebration for Flathead Lake. The University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station has exceeded its $1 million goal to match a lake monitoring challenge grant.

In late 2011, FLBS began a three-year campaign to raise a $1 million endowment to match a pledge for its Flathead Lake Research and Monitoring Program. Hundreds of families, foundations and businesses came through with gifts large and small.

“This incredible generosity will help protect the quality of Flathead Lake’s water for years to come,” said FLBS Director Jack Stanford. “Our team of faculty, staff and students gives a heartfelt thanks to the community and everyone who donated and made this possible.”

FLBS scientists specialize in ecological research and education with an emphasis on freshwater, particularly Flathead Lake and its watershed. FLBS research and monitoring provide a continuous record of lake conditions needed to understand and protect the lake and reveal threats before they become problems.
Actor John Lithgow owns a Flathead Lake home and actively supports the work of FLBS.

“At a time of deep concern for the Earth’s fragile environment, the Flathead Lake Biological Station continues to do a magnificent job monitoring the Flathead’s complex water system,” Lithgow said. “All of us who treasure this beautiful lake owe the station a great and ongoing debt of gratitude.”

The research program depends almost entirely upon grants and gifts. Thus, faculty and staff at FLBS are forging ahead on the next set of priorities for community support. Current projects for which they seek funding include:

- LakeNET, the environmental sensor network around Flathead Lake, which provides real-time weather and water data to Flathead Lake residents and recreationists.

- The development and application of an environmental DNA test for aquatic invasive species. The test will allow researchers to rapidly determine from a water sample whether invasive species have reached Flathead Lake and other water bodies in Montana.

- Continued ecological discovery at FLBS’s long-term floodplain research site, the Nyack floodplain on the Middle Fork Flathead River.

A video about FLBS can be viewed at http://bit.ly/1kbi45H. For more information or to make a donation, call Tom Bansak, FLBS research scientist and development coordinator, at 406-982-3301 ext. 229 or email tom.bansak@umontana.edu; call Stanford at 406-982-3301 ext. 236 or email jack.stanford@umontana.edu. Donate online at http://www2.umt.edu/flbs/.

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**Contact:** Tom Bansak, FLBS research scientist and development coordinator, 406-982-3301 ext. 229, tom.bansak@umontana.edu; Jack Stanford, FLBS director, 406-982-3301 ext. 236, jack.stanford@umontana.edu.
Study Finds Climate Change Accelerates Hybridization Between Native, Invasive Trout

May 27, 2014

MISSOULA – A new article by researchers from the University of Montana, the U.S. Geological Survey and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks asserts that climate warming is increasing the hybridization of trout – interbreeding between native and non-native species – in the interior western United States.

Clint Muhlfeld, a research assistant professor in the UM Division of Biological Sciences' Flathead Lake Biological Station and research ecologist with the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center in Glacier National Park, is the lead author of the article, titled "Invasive hybridization in a threatened species is accelerated by climate change," which was published in the latest issue of Nature Climate Change. Co-authors are Ryan Kovach, a postdoctoral scholar at UM's Flathead Lake Biological Station, and Leslie Jones, a UM doctoral student who works with Muhlfeld and USGS.

Specifically, rapid increases in stream temperature and decreases in spring flow over the past several decades contributed to the spread of hybridization between native westslope cutthroat trout and the introduced rainbow...
trout – the world’s most widely introduced invasive fish – across the Flathead River system in Montana and British Columbia, Canada.

Experts have hypothesized that climate change could decrease worldwide biodiversity through cross-breeding between invasive and native species, but this study is the first to directly and scientifically support this prediction. The study was based on 30 years of research by scientists with UM, USGS and Montana FWP.

Hybridization has contributed to the decline and extinction of many native fishes worldwide, including all subspecies of cutthroat trout in western North America, which have enormous ecological and socioeconomic value. The researchers used long-term genetic monitoring data coupled with high-resolution climate and stream temperature predictions to measure whether climate warming enhances interactions between native and non-native species through hybridization.

"Climatic changes are threatening highly prized native trout as introduced rainbow trout continue to expand their range and hybridize with native populations through climate-induced ‘windows of opportunity,’ putting many populations and species at greater risk than previously thought," Muhlfeld said.

“The study illustrates that protecting genetic integrity and diversity of native species will be incredibly challenging when species are threatened with climate-induced invasive hybridization," he said.

Westslope cutthroat trout and rainbow trout both spawn in the spring and can produce fertile offspring when they interbreed. Over time, a mating population of native and non-native fish will result in only hybrid individuals with substantially reduced fitness because their genomes have been altered by non-native genes that are maladapted to the local environment. Protecting and maintaining the genetic integrity of native species is important for a species’ ability to be resilient and better adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

Historical genetic samples revealed that hybridization between the two species was largely confined to one downstream Flathead River population. However, the study noted, during the past 30 years, hybridization rapidly spread upstream, irreversibly reducing the genetic integrity of native westslope cutthroat trout populations. Genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout are known to occupy less than 10 percent of their historical range.

The rapid increase in hybridization was associated with climatic changes in the region. From 1978 to 2008, the rate of warming nearly tripled in the Flathead basin, resulting in earlier spring runoff, lower spring flooding and flows, and warming summer stream temperatures. Those locations with the greatest changes in stream flow and temperature experienced the greatest increases in hybridization.

Relative to cutthroat trout, rainbow trout prefer these climate-induced changes and tolerate greater environmental disturbance. These conditions likely have enhanced rainbow trout spawning and population numbers, leading to massive expansion of hybridization with westslope cutthroat trout.

“The evolutionary consequences of climate change are one of our greatest areas of uncertainty because empirical data addressing this issue are extraordinarily rare," Kovach said. “This study is a tremendous step forward in our understanding of how climate change can influence evolutionary process and ultimately species biodiversity."
Overall, aquatic ecosystems in western North America are predicted to experience earlier snowmelt in the spring, reduced late spring and summer flows, warmer and drier summers, and increased water temperatures – all of which indicate increased hybridization between these species.

Additional UM-affiliated authors are UM Wildlife Biology Program Director Winsor Lowe, UM Associate Professor of Conservation Ecology Gordon Luikart and Regents Professor Emeritus Fred Allendorf. Authors not affiliated with UM are Robert Al-Chokhachy with the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center, Matthew Boyer with Montana FWP in Kalispell and Robb Leary with Montana FWP in Missoula.

The study was supported by the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Northwest Climate Science Center, the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center, the National Science Foundation and Bonneville Power Administration.

The article can be viewed online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nclimate2252. For more information call Muhlfeld at 406-600-9686 or email cmuhlfeld@usgs.gov.

Contact: Clint Muhlfeld, research assistant professor, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 406-600-9686, cmuhlfeld@usgs.gov.
MISSOULA – The American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, is the subject of a new hourlong documentary produced by MontanaPBS. The program premieres at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, on MontanaPBS. It will repeat at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 29.

ALEC, which organizes and disseminates model legislation to state legislators, played an active role in spreading the Florida “Stand Your Ground” law to states around the country.

In addition to Stand Your Ground, ALEC has promoted model legislation for charter schools, voter ID laws and deregulation.

MontanaPBS investigative producer Anna Rau spent a year researching the organization, its funders and a complaint filed with the IRS by an opposition group, focusing on ALEC’s alleged lobbying activity.
Last December, Rau followed two Montana legislators to the ALEC national convention in Washington, D.C., where lawmakers and corporate representatives discussed and formulated legislative language in closed-door sessions. She spoke with the organization’s national communications director, who refuted ALEC’s critics.

MontanaPBS is available in more than 440 communities in Montana. Check local listings for the channel.

For a press screener copy of the documentary, call Rau at 406-531-5085 or email anna.rau@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Anna Rau, MontanaPBS writer and producer, 406-531-5085, anna.rau@umontana.edu; William Marcus, MontanaPBS executive producer, 406-243-4154, william.marcus@umontana.edu.
UM Class of 2014 Raises $3,200 for Farm to College Program

May 22, 2014

MISSOULA – Thanks to the Class of 2014, the University of Montana soon will have a new and improved way to handle produce from its garden. The senior class raised $3,200 this spring to buy a garden wash station for the University’s Farm to College Program.

“We are absolutely thrilled to be able to build something that will benefit students for years to come,” said Molly Adamson, co-chair of the Senior Class Gift Campaign. “I want to thank the 170 seniors who gave back to UM during this year’s campaign.”

The new produce wash station will be installed at the UM Dining Garden on campus. Farm to College agreed to match the seniors’ donation to ensure the wash station is installed as soon as possible.

“We currently have no facility for hand washing and sanitation in the garden,” said Natasha Hegmann, manager of the UM Dining Garden. “This wash station will help UM Dining Garden staff and interns learn about and comply with food safety guidelines and will make it easier for us to serve fresh, healthy food on campus.”
The Senior Class Gift Campaign, run by student volunteers and the UM Foundation, is intended to educate students about the importance of philanthropy. The goal is participation, and the end result – a gift for the University community – inspires future students to give back as well.

Farm to College has been a popular program of support in recent years; past seniors have funded solar panels and a greenhouse. Other past gifts have included a campus map on Mount Sentinel, trees on the Oval and a new bike rack outside The Payne Family Native American Center.

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**Contact:** Kate Stober, UM Foundation media contact, 406-243-2627, kate.stober@mso.umt.edu; Molly Adamson, phonathon call center manager, UM Foundation, 406-243-5611, molly.adamson@mso.umt.edu; Tara Vinson, associate director of annual giving, UM Foundation, 406-243-2575, tara.vinson@mso.umt.edu.
UM President Approves East Broadway Site for Missoula College after Environmental Assessment

May 21, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana has completed an environmental assessment for its planned Missoula College building. After careful review, UM President Royce Engstrom announced May 21 that he has determined constructing the project at 1205 E. Broadway would result in no significant impacts on the environment.

The complete EA is online at [http://umt.edu/buildmissoulacollege/](http://umt.edu/buildmissoulacollege/).

“The East Broadway site has gone through an intensive examination and it meets both present and future needs for Missoula College,” Engstrom said. “The EA showed that the site is compatible with its surroundings. I believe Missoula College will add tremendous attractiveness to the area on East Broadway and will serve as a catalyst for further positive development.

“I am looking forward to beginning the building,” he said, “which will serve generations of students to come.”
UM administrators intend for detailed design development to begin immediately, with a ceremonial groundbreaking as fall semester begins.

The 2013 Montana Legislature approved $29 million in state funding for a new Missoula College building, with an additional $3 million coming from UM.

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**Contact:** Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, peggy.kuhr@umontana.edu.
American Bar Association President to Speak at UM Law School Commencement

May 21, 2014

MISSOULA – James R. Silkenat, president of the American Bar Association, will deliver remarks during the University of Montana School of Law Commencement ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 24, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre. Eighty students will graduate from the school.

Silkenat is a partner in the New York office of the national law firm Sullivan & Worcester and is a member of its corporate department. Before his election by the ABA House of Delegates last year as the association’s president-elect, he was a member of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession and the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. He also served as co-chair of the ABA Solo and Small Firm Leadership Coalition.

He has been a member of the ABA House of Delegates since 1990. He was chair of the body’s New York Delegation from 2000 to 2009. He is a former member of the ABA Board of Governors and its executive committee, and is a former national chair of the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation.

In his legal practice, Silkenat helps coordinate the firm’s international business practice and concentrates on...
the areas of project and infrastructure finance, banking, securities law, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate law. He is a former legal counsel at the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C.

A frequent author and lecturer, Silkenat is the editor or co-editor of 14 books and author of more than 100 articles on legal and justice system issues. His books include “The Law of International Insolvencies and Debt Restructurings,” “The Imperial Presidency and the Consequences of 9/11: Lawyers React to the Global War on Terrorism” and “The ABA Guide to International Business Negotiations.”

Silkenat earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Chicago School of Law and his Master of Laws in international law from the New York University School of Law.

For more information about the graduation and hooding ceremony, call Carla Caballero-Jackson, director of external relations for the UM School of Law, at 406-243-6254 or email carla.caballero-jackson@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Carla Caballero-Jackson, director of external relations, UM School of Law, 406-243-6254, carla.caballero-jackson@umontana.edu.
New ‘Backroads of Montana’ Airs on MontanaPBS May 28

May 21, 2014

MISSOULA – Vintage travel films, an aged piece of sweet memorabilia, songs from a bovine point of view and contemporary American Indian art make up a new episode of the popular MontanaPBS travelogue series “Backroads of Montana.” The program premieres at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, with a repeat at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 31, on MontanaPBS.

The program begins with the story of De Borgia native Don Cooper, who was trained as a lumberjack. During his time in the Alaskan woods, he loaned a fellow worker $70 and, as collateral, got a film camera. He began taking nature and travel footage, eventually leaving a legacy of a dozen finished films complete with insightful and funny commentary.

The “Backroads” team attends a birthday party at the Range Riders Museum in Miles City. The guest of honor is one of the museum’s most unusual artifacts.

The next stop is in Bigfork for an event featuring Judy Williams, a Toston-area ranch wife. Williams tries to imagine what the cows are thinking. Using popular songs, she interprets their musings and has put together a
popular series of bovine-themed routines.

For the final story, the program moves from music to art with a feature on Crow Indian artist Kevin Red Star from Roberts and Pryor. He’s built a successful career with a style that combines impressionism and traditional themes and symbols.

William Marcus hosts the program from Bannack State Park near Dillon, which has been restored fully following a devastating flood in July 2013.

“Backroads of Montana” is funded by the Greater Montana Foundation, the Montana Office of Tourism and the University of Montana. MontanaPBS is a statewide collaborative service of KUFM-TV at UM and KUSM-TV at Montana State University. Check local listings for channels.

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Contact: William Marcus, director, UM Broadcast Media Center, 406-243-4154, william.marcus@umontana.edu.
UM Business School Announces Business Plan Competition Winners

May 21, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Business Administration and the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs have announced the winners of the 25th annual John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition.

UM business school undergraduate students Matthew Gangloff and Andrew Burrington and MBA student Kyle Marshall won the top award of $10,000 for their business plan, New Leaf Environmental. New Leaf provides high-tech, low-cost environmental monitoring solutions to a wide range of customers concerned with environmental impacts.

During the 14-hour competition held May 15 at the UM Gallagher Business Building, 16 student teams competed in four divisions of judging and presentations, leading up to the evening’s final round, during which they presented their business plans to a panel of 45 judges and an audience of close to 250.

Twenty-one student teams originally were nominated in April by faculty from higher education institutions across Montana for consideration in the event, which is designed to encourage Montana students to develop
UM Business School Announces Business Plan Competition Winners - UM News - University Of Montana

their business ideas and learn about entrepreneurship from business experts.

The event is judged and coached by venture capitalists, angel investors, bankers, successful entrepreneurs and corporate executives who share their expertise and commit their time before and during the competition.

Support from several sponsors and private donors funded the more than $31,000 prize purse and the students’ competition expenses. Details on the awards and winners follow.

- **First place**: New Leaf Environmental: UM students Matthew Gangloff of Brattleboro, Vt., Andrew Burrington of Missoula and Kyle Marshall of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. New Leaf Environmental provides customers with a range of environmental monitoring solutions that use emerging technologies to give them more information about the air, water and soil around them. $10,000 prize.
- **Second place**: Nexus Consulting: UM MBA students Pei Pei of Missoula and Weisha Song of Taiyuan, China. Nexus is a study-abroad agency in China to help students apply and enter U.S. education institutions. $5,000 prize.
- **Third place**: PriceRight: UM students Claude Sammoury of Boulder, Colo., and Cliff Stolk of Edmonds, Wash. PriceRight provides pricing optimization and automation for the retail and grocery industry through electronic price tags and cloud-based software. $2,500 prize.

**Undergraduate Business Plan Award**: PriceRight: Sammoury and Stolk. $1,000 prize.

**Elevator Pitch (90-second team presentation)**: Obadiah’s Solar Expansion: UM student Sarah Chain of Troy. Obadiah’s is a small commercial solar energy systems retailer expanding operations to Honolulu, Hawaii. Given to the team with the highest audience score on their 90-second presentations. $1,500 prize.

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

- **Brandon Speth Passion, Poise, and Charisma Award**: Chain: Obadiah’s Solar Expansion. $1,000 prize.
- **People’s Choice Award**: Gangloff, Burrington and Marshall: New Leaf Environmental. $1,500 prize.
- **Blackstone LaunchPad Impact Award**: UM student Skyler Pauli of Missoula: Montana Produce. Montana Produce Company is a geothermal greenhouse supplying the Bozeman area with fresh produce year-round. $1,000 prize.
- **Most Dynamic and Scalable Award**: Sammoury and Stolk: PriceRight. Recognizes the team with growth potential during the first five years of operation. $1,000 prize.

The Blackstone LaunchPad Impact Award was presented for the first time this year. The award recognizes the plan with the greatest potential for economic impact in the state of Montana.

Also new this year, MonTEC, the UM-based nonprofit business incubator, will provide the winner of the competition with a six-month affiliate membership. This includes 24/7 access to the facility, use of all conference rooms and shared spaces, access to video conferencing and 10GB Internet services, as well as participation in all social and shared resource programs as part of the growing MonTEC community.

MADE was founded by successful entrepreneurs with the goal of bringing their experience to students and the classroom. In addition to supporting the John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition held each spring at UM, MADE organizes an advanced entrepreneurship seminar series and also honors influential entrepreneurs who
demonstrate a commitment to Montana with the Pioneer in Industry Award. For more information about MADE, visit http://www.business.umt.edu/organizations/MADE.aspx.

UM’s School of Business Administration is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, the most rigorous accrediting body for business degree programs. For more information visit http://www.business.umt.edu/.

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**Contact:** Larae Hackney, special program coordinator, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-4830, larae.hackney@business.umt.edu.
UM Announces 2014 Presidential Leadership Scholars

May 21, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana Presidential Leadership Scholarships have been awarded to 33 exceptional incoming UM freshmen. The scholarships recognize outstanding talent, academic performance, leadership and contribution to the community.

This year’s scholarship winners were chosen from a field of more than 400 qualified applicants. Scholarship recipients become members of UM’s Davidson Honors College and receive a four year tuition waiver plus an additional $5,000 to $7,500 per year.

Montana’s crop of 2014 Presidential Leadership Scholars are Conner Becker of Belgrade; Nicole Evans, Carter Webber and Jennifer Zundel of Billings; Natasha Colson-Sullivan, Martha Krebill and Kurt Swimley of Bozeman; Noah Johnston of Butte; Lindsay Ashton of Clancy; Kian Bertin of Colstrip; Jed Syrenne of Florence; Andrew Honken of Frenchtown; Erika Ackerlund and Bethany Crouse of Helena; Lander Crissman of Kalispell; Austin Gilbert, Katerina Hall and Parker Lund of Missoula; and Jebediah Rosen of Victor.

Fourteen Presidential Leadership Scholars will come to UM from other states. They are Erin Goudreau
Anchorage, Alaska; Victoria Gifford of Agoura Hills, Calif.; Alicia Leggett of Kentfield, Calif.; Reid Hensen of Englewood, Colo.; Tessa Leake of Evergreen, Colo.; Claire Dalman of Lakewood; Ill.; Kaitlyn Strickfaden of McHenry, Ill.; Madeline Matia of Olmsted Falls, Ohio; Megan Franz of Tigard, Ore.; Nathaniel Smith of Moab, Utah; Sarah Gaulke of Fairfax, Va.; Cassandra Sevigny of Everett, Wash.; Carly Stinson of Lacey, Wash.; and Emily Hurst of Puyallup, Wash.

“We have recruited an impressive group of students for this prestigious scholarship program,” said James McKusick, dean of the Davidson Honors College. “These students will contribute to the entire campus through their aspiration to academic excellence and their engagement in leadership and service. We expect tremendous accomplishments from them.”

For more information call the Honors College at 406-243-2541 or email dhc@umontana.edu.

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Contact: UM Davidson Honors College, 406-243-2541, dhc@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Montana’s economy has experienced significant impacts from the operations of the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology, including more jobs, higher household incomes and larger tax revenues, according to a study completed by the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

During the past 14 years, MBRCT has produced a larger, more prosperous and more populous state economy than would have existed in its absence, BBER Director Patrick Barkey said. Established in 2000, the board encourages economic development through investment in Montana-based research projects with a clear path to commercialization.

The economic-impact study found that MBRCT operations have produced the following economic outcomes:

- An average of 459 jobs have been created;
- More than $315 million was received by Montana households;
- After-tax household income of Montanans was higher by almost $229 million;
Increased gross sales of $718 million were realized by Montana-based business and other organizations; and

- Tax and non-tax revenues, not including property taxes, were $66 million higher.

In its 14-year history, MBRCT has supported projects in agricultural research, energy and mining research, biotech and medical research, photonics and optics research, and areas such as software, bioreactors, carbon dioxide sensors and biomimetic floating islands.

“Our basic finding is that MBRCT’s operations have had an outsized impact on the state economy,” Barkey said. “By almost any measure, the program’s impacts have been substantial, and it clearly has been a good investment in Montana’s economy.”


BBER is a research center producing economic and industry data for Montana. For more information visit [http://www.bber.umt.edu/](http://www.bber.umt.edu/).

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**Contact:** Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – New research co-written by Steve Running, University of Montana Regents Professor of Ecology, highlights the importance of semiarid ecosystems in a recent, record-breaking uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

These new findings suggest the record jump in carbon uptake in 2011 was due to enhanced vegetation growth in Australia, South America and South Africa following La Nina-driven increases in rainfall. The global plant production dataset produced by NASA satellites using Running’s software detected these trends.

Land and ocean carbon sinks absorb around half the fossil fuel emissions produced each year, slowing the rise of atmospheric CO2. Previous studies have pointed to tropical biomes as the primary land-based carbon sinks. This new research shows that dryland ecosystems also play an important role in carbon cycle dynamics.

Running and lead author Benjamin Poulter, a new faculty member at Montana State University, said that rapid vegetation growth after increased La Nina rainfall was concentrated in arid lands that typically are water-stressed.
“This study shows that although arid ecosystems like Montana don’t grow very fast, they are an important part of the global carbon balance and their response to climate trends are noticeable,” Running said. “These biomes occupy a huge area globally – some 17 million square miles – which is about 45 percent of the Earth’s land surface.”

The emerging role of semiarid ecosystems on interannual global carbon budget dynamics is unexpected, but likely only a short-term departure in long-term global trends of rising CO2 emissions.

The journal Nature published the research May 21 in an article titled “Contribution of semiarid ecosystems to interannual variability of the global carbon cycle.”

Poulter and Running are part of the Montana University System’s Institute on Ecosystems, funded by the National Science Foundation’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

“It is exciting to have authors from both MSU and UM on this prominent paper in Nature magazine,” Running said.

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Contact: Steve Running, UM Regents Professor of Ecology, 406-243-6311, swr@ntsg.umt.edu.
UM Lecture to Discuss ‘Post-Deployment Syndrome’ in Veterans

May 20, 2014

MISSOULA – Dr. David Cifu will visit the University of Montana Wednesday through Thursday, May 21-22, to work with UM Neural Injury Center team members and will deliver a lecture on Thursday.

Cifu, chairman and Herman J. Flax Professor of the Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, will deliver a clinically oriented talk titled “Post-Deployment Syndrome: Assessment and Management of Persistent Symptoms of Combat-Associated Trauma” at noon in Skaggs Building Room 169. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Cifu also serves as chief of PM&R Services of the VCU Health System and is founding director of the VCU Center for Rehabilitation Sciences and Engineering. With the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, he serves as national director of the PM&R Program Office and is a cabinet-appointed member of the senior executive staff.

He has received funding for 36 research grants totaling more than $110 million. He currently serves as principal investigator of the VA and Department of Justice $62.2 million Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium.
In his more than 20 years as an academic physiatrist, Cifu has delivered more than 475 regional, national and international lectures, published more than 195 articles and 65 abstracts, and co-written 29 books and book chapters. He also is a former president of the American Academy of PM&R.

For more information call Reed Humphrey, UM professor and chair of the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, at 406-243-2414 or email reed.humphrey@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Reed Humphrey, professor and chair, UM School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, 406-243-2417, reed.humphrey@umontana.edu.
New Research Shows Humans Have More Impact on Tropical Nitrogen Levels

May 19, 2014

MISSOULA – A new paper co-written by four University of Montana researchers finds that humans have more than doubled tropical nitrogen inputs.

Benjamin Sullivan, a researcher working with UM College of Forestry and Conservation Professor Cory Cleveland, led the team that looked at the nitrogen cycle in tropical rain forests. Sullivan and his colleagues used a new method to demonstrate that biological nitrogen fixation in tropical rain forests may be less than a quarter of previous estimates.

Nitrogen is an essential nutrient for plant and animal life. It’s required in many basic molecules, like DNA and amino acids. Nitrogen enters the environment either through a microbial process called biological nitrogen fixation or through human activity, such as fertilization and fossil-fuel consumption.

Too much nitrogen, however, leads to dead zones, pollutes air and drinking water, contributes to a number of human illnesses, and can affect ecosystems negatively. That could be a problem, given the high biodiversity of tropical rain forests and their important role in the global carbon cycle and the Earth’s climate.
“This research fundamentally changes our understanding of the tropical nitrogen cycle,” said Sullivan. “It shows that few ecosystems on Earth have escaped the impact of human activity.”

He notes that human impacts on the nitrogen cycle typically are greatest where biological nitrogen fixation is low and human inputs of nitrogen are high – like in many parts of North America, including Montana.

Past research has assumed that tropical rain forests have high levels of biological nitrogen fixation and that humans add relatively little nitrogen to tropical ecosystems. In fact, by reducing estimates of naturally occurring nitrogen inputs, “this research shows that human impacts on the nitrogen cycle are even bigger than we thought. Preserving human and ecosystem health requires immediate steps to solve this growing problem,” Cleveland said.

Sullivan worked with UM doctoral student Megan Nasto and researcher Bill Smith. Smith provided the spatial data analysis that put Sullivan’s field and lab-tested results into a global context. Co-authors also include UM alumna Sasha Reed at the U.S. Geological Survey, and researchers at the University of Colorado-Boulder and the University of Connecticut.

The research paper, titled “Spatially Robust Estimates of Biological Nitrogen (N) Fixation Imply Substantial Human Alteration of the Tropical N Cycle,” was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

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Contact: Benjamin Sullivan, UM postdoctoral researcher, 928-226-1899, benjamin.sullivan@umontana.edu.
UM Announces 2014 First-Year Reading Experience Book

May 16, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana, in partnership with the Missoula Public Library’s The Big Read program, has selected “The Things They Carried” by National Book Award-winner Tim O’Brien as the 2014 First-Year Reading Experience book.

All first-year students at UM are invited to participate in the First-Year Reading Experience. The program provides incoming freshmen with a shared intellectual experience to encourage discussion, advance critical thinking and develop a sense of community.

This is the first time the University has partnered with the Missoula community to share a common read. The collaboration, which is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, offers students and community members common ground for meaningful discussion. Many community partners and sponsors will offer programming, exhibits and other involvement opportunities to discuss the themes of the book.

“The Things They Carried” is a collection of short stories about a platoon of American soldiers in the Vietnam War. It first was published in 1990. In 2005 it was named by The New York Times as one of the 22 best books...
of the last quarter century. It earned the Chicago Tribune Heartland Award in fiction and was a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

The book will be used and referenced in classes across campus, including the Global Leadership Initiative and Writing 101. The book will be available for purchase at The Bookstore at UM, located in the University Center.

O’Brien will be on campus Tuesday, Oct. 28, to speak to the freshman class as well as to the campus and Missoula communities.

O’Brien’s short fiction has appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Esquire, Playboy, Harper’s Magazine and numerous editions of The O. Henry Prize Stories and The Best American Short Stories. His novels have sold more than 3.5 million copies and have been translated into more than 20 languages.

UM freshmen are invited to participate in a writing contest based on the book and interactions with the author during the campus visit.

For more information visit http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/fyreading.

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Contact: Megan Stark, assistant professor, UM Mansfield Library, 406-243-2864, megan.stark@umontana.edu.
$45 Million: UM Lands Largest Research Award in University History

May 16, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana has received a $45 million cooperative agreement award from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the agency announced May 16. The five-year research award is the largest in the history of UM.

Under the agreement, UM will help the Corps study and solve environmental and cultural resource problems across the nation. The University also will assist the Corps in implementing land and water ecological restoration, maintenance and training for optimal management of public resources.

F. Richard “Ric” Hauer is UM professor of freshwater science and systems ecology and directs the UM side of the Institute on Ecosystems, a statewide institute of the Montana University System. He will serve as program director and principal investigator of the cooperative agreement.

“Earning this award confirms that UM has become an elite research institution in the arena of ecology and environmental sciences,” Hauer said. “This will take our research enterprise to an even higher and exciting new level. It is a wonderful opportunity for our faculty, graduate students and post-docs.”
The award confirms UM’s ecological and cultural research status, said Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship. “When you look at a map of the United States and identify all the lead institutions doing environmental research, there should be a star next to Missoula and the University of Montana.”

During the past two decades, UM has become a world leader in conservation biology, ecology and ecosystem science, Hauer said. Recent publications in Science and Conservation Biology name UM one of five universities in the nation demonstrating the largest growth in high-impact science publications and also ranks in the top 10 among all North American universities in conservation biology and ecology.

“We are, without doubt, competitive with and even surpassing many of the largest and most prestigious universities in the nation in the area of ecological and cultural research,” Hauer said. “Our faculty members are among the best in the nation, indeed the world. I know our researchers demand the highest level of excellence of themselves and each other.”

Hauer has a long-standing relationship with the Corps, assisting the agency with many projects since 1992. He helped the Corps develop the nationwide methodology and protocols for doing ecological assessments of rivers and wetlands. He also has taught classes for agency personnel on stream ecology and large-river ecosystems for the past 18 years.

Hauer said the work envisioned in the cooperative agreement may include topics such as the ecological effects of dams and reservoirs, environmental management problems, endangered species such as paddlefish or sturgeon, invasive species such as spotted knapweed or zebra mussels, water-quality issues, abandoned mine waste, Native American cultural sites, human health in the environment, and environmental policy and law.

“We have outstanding faculty members and state-of-the-art technology here at the University of Montana,” UM President Royce Engstrom said, “and it will be exciting to see how this significant award energizes and transforms our institution.”

Hauer will lead a research management team of 10 faculty members who already oversee a number of UM centers and academic programs. The team is divided into two divisions:

- **Natural Resources** with UM faculty Ragan Callaway, John Kimball, Winsor Lowe Cara Nelson and Maury Valett.
- **Cultural Resources** with UM faculty Kelly Dixon, Andrij Holian, Elizabeth Metcalf, Jakki Mohr and Irma Russell.

“We plan to involve as many of the graduate programs across campus as possible to accomplish this important ecological and cultural research,” Hauer said. “It’s going to be varied, exciting work.”

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$45 Million: UM Lands Largest Research Award in University History - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: F. Richard Hauer, UM systems ecology professor, UM director of Institute on Ecosystems, 406-243-4848, ric.hauer@umontana.edu; Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship, 406-243-6670, scott.whittenburg@umontana.edu.
UM Mansfield Center Hosts Anti-Human Trafficking Training Workshop

May 15, 2014

MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana, in conjunction with local law enforcement and community organizers, will host a one-day workshop on June 5 titled “Freedom in Montana: Fighting Human Trafficking at Home.”

Designed for community leaders, local officials and concerned citizens, the workshop will focus on ways to recognize human trafficking, law enforcement responses to trafficking in Montana, and how communities can start local human trafficking task forces. The event is a follow-up to the 2014 Mansfield Conference, “Fight for Hope & Freedom: Human Trafficking, Montana and the World,” which was held at UM in April.

Human trafficking, a $32 billion annual industry worldwide, happens in Montana and across the United States. An estimated 300,000 children are at risk for sex trafficking every year, and the average age of girls forced into the sex trade is between 12 and 14. An unknown number of people are enslaved for forced labor. The Attorney General's Office, local law enforcement and community organizations are working to increase Montana's investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes and aid to victims. The “Freedom in Montana” workshop will teach community members how they can help.
The workshop will be held in University Center Rooms 330-331. The schedule follows.

- **10 a.m.-noon**: “Human Trafficking in Montana: What to Look For” with Katharina Werner of the YWCA Missoula.
- **12:45-2:45 p.m.** "Law Enforcement Response to Trafficking in Montana" with Guy Baker of the FBI's Montana Regional Violent Crime Task Force.
- **3-4 pm.** "Legal Statutes – TVPA and Montana Law." Speakers to be announced.
- **4:15-5 p.m.** “How to Start a Local Task Force” with members of the Missoula Task Force.
- **5-6 pm.** Social hour.

The workshop is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For more information or to register, visit [http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/events/conference/workshop](http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/events/conference/workshop).

The Mansfield Center at UM promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia, and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of former U.S. Sen. and Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield and his wife, Maureen. The center houses programs that focus on the peoples and cultures of modern Asia and ethics in public affairs, the core interests and hallmarks of Mansfield's career.

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**Contact:** Abraham Kim, director, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-6778, abraham.kim@umontana.edu.
UM Student, Alumni Win Awards for Documentary at Hot Docs Film Festival

May 14, 2014

MISSOULA – A unique perspective and five long days of work are paying off for a University of Montana graduate student and three alumni. The filmmaking team Wheelhouse Missoula – comprising current and former UM School of Media Arts students – recently won the prestigious PBS P.O.V. Award and the Best Experimental Film Award at the Hot Docs Film Festival in Toronto for their short documentary “20/Nothing.”

The six-minute film was produced for the International Documentary Challenge in late February – just as a massive blizzard hit Missoula. Competing teams were assigned a theme, “Behind the Curtain,” and genre, experimental, for the five-day challenge.

Second-year media arts graduate student Rachel Stevens and alumni Sarah Meismer, Josef “Tuna” Metesh and Caitlin Hofmeister produced “20/Nothing” about Stevens’ partner Evan Smith of Jackson, Wyo., who has one prosthetic eye. The film explores what it means physically and theoretically to be “behind the curtain” with just one seeing eye, and employs an experimental split-screen composition.

More than 100 teams across the world competed in the challenge, and 12 films were chosen by an elite
industry jury to premiere at Hot Docs, North America's largest film festival.

Though some finalist teams have participated in the International Documentary Challenge multiple times, this was Wheelhouse Missoula’s competition debut.

“I wanted to get into making documentary films, and I’d worked with this team before that I really liked,” Stevens said. “We decided to do this challenge on kind of a whim, but we pulled it all together.”

Stevens, of Georgetown, Texas, was the film’s director; Meismer, of Missoula, was the director of photography; Metesh, of Butte, was the sound designer and Steadicam operator; and Hofmeister, of Sandpoint, Idaho, was the editor and assistant cameraman. However, producing a film on a five-day deadline meant that everyone did a bit of everything.

The P.O.V. Award comes with a $1,000 prize, but Stevens said the team felt that participating in Hot Docs was a reward in itself.

“When they announced ‘This year’s P.O.V. Award goes to ‘20/Nothing’ directed by Rachel Stevens,’ we were absolutely shocked,” she said. “Throughout the rest of the weekend we learned to trust that strong feeling we had during the making of ‘20/Nothing,’ which was ‘this is something good.’

“We want to make more things like that, together,” she said. “You will see more from us. Guaranteed.”

The film is on the festival circuit but will be available for online viewing in August through The Audience Awards at http://theaudienceawards.com/.

Wheelhouse Missoula received a grant from the Montana Film Office and support from the Associated Students of UM to produce the film and travel to Toronto at the beginning of May for Hot Docs.

For more information email Stevens at rlmstevens@gmail.com or visit https://www.facebook.com/twentynothingpremiere. More information on the International Documentary Challenge can be found at http://www.docchallenge.com/.

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Contact: Rachel Stevens, UM graduate student, rlmstevens@gmail.com.
UM Student, Alumni Win Awards for Documentary at Hot Docs Film Festival - UM News - University Of Montana
Three UM Students Win National Honors in Russian Essay Contest

May 14, 2014

MISSOULA – Students in the University of Montana Russian program again have received high honors in the American Council of Teachers of Russian National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest.

Dina Difort earned a gold medal for her essay at the heritage speaker first-year level, Dakota Whisler earned a silver medal at the nonheritage speaker third-year level and Emma Difort earned a bronze medal at the heritage speaker third-year level. Dina Difort’s essay received the highest ranking in the U.S. at her level.

In the contest, Whisler, of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Dina and Emma Difort of Missoula, wrote short responses in Russian – with no dictionary or assistance – on the topic “An important decision in my life.”

More than 1,000 essays were submitted from the top Russian students at 58 universities, colleges and institutions. Judges in Russia then ranked the submissions. At least one student in the UM Russian program has received an award in the contest every year since 2007, and this is the second year Whisler and Emma Difort have medaled.
The program, within UM’s Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, has produced strong majors in Russian language, literature and culture in recent years. Last year, three Russian language students received Fulbright awards to Russia, Georgia and Kazakhstan.

This year, one Russian program student, Christina Bloemen of Fort Collins, Colo., was offered a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Ukraine next year.

“The success of our students in the annual Russian essay contest and in earning prestigious grants and fellowships like U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarships, Gilman Scholarships, Fulbrights and the highly competitive Boren Scholarship, speaks to the high quality of our program and our students,” said Clint Walker, associate professor of Russian.

“My colleague, Ona Renner-Fahey, and I work very hard as teachers and mentors, and we couldn’t be more proud of our talented students.”

For more information call Walker at 406-243-2501 or email clint.walker@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Clint Walker, associate professor of Russian, UM Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, 406-243-2501, clint.walker@mso.umt.edu.
Three UM Students Win National Honors in Russian Essay Contest - UM News - University Of Montana
UM National Model United Nations Students Win Award at Conference

May 14, 2014

MISSOULA – Twelve University of Montana students on the Montana Model United Nations Team returned from a national conference in New York City with an award for representing the Pacific Island nation of Fiji.

In preparation for the National Model U.N. Conference, the team met with Missoula resident Jerry Weber, a returned Peace Corps volunteer who served in Fiji. During the weeklong conference, held March 30 through April 3, team members visited Fiji’s diplomatic mission to the U.N., attended talks by national and international policy makers, including Samantha Power, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., and held closing ceremonies at U.N. headquarters.

Students represented the Republic of Fiji on the following committees:

- Andrew Surratt of Missoula, senior, political science, General Assembly Fourth Committee (Decolonization and Political Affairs).

- Byron Boots of Sequim, Wash., sophomore, management information systems and international business,
General Assembly First Committee (Peace and Security).

- Christina Bloemen of Fort Collins, Colo., senior, political science and Russian, United Nations Environmental Program.

- Dakota Whisler of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, senior, German and Russian, United Nations Population Fund.

- Dani Howlett of Polson, senior, political science, United Nations Second Committee (Economic).


- Emily Gary of Dillon, senior, political science and Russian, General Assembly Third Committee (Human Rights).

- Jake Brown of Billings, senior, political science and Arabic, General Assembly First Committee (Peace and Security).


- Karla Mae Nettleton of Helena, senior, political science and accounting, General Second Assembly (Economic).

- Nicolas McCutcheon of Houston, senior, political science and history, Operations for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons.

- Talon Sandstrom of Choteau, senior, political science, minor in Russian, United Nations Environmental Program.

For the overall excellence of their work, the Montana Model U.N. Team was named a Distinguished Delegation, an award given to only 25 percent of the 193 countries represented at the conference.

“This is a high honor, especially for a small delegation representing a small country,” said MMUN Faculty Adviser Karen Ruth Adams.

After the conference, the team visited Fiji’s diplomatic mission to the U.N.

“The staff were very pleased with how we represented their country,” Bloemen said. “They gave us all FIJI Water and a copy of the new Fijian constitution.”

NMUN is one of the largest Model U.N. conferences in the world, drawing more than 5,000 university students – about half of which are international. Like other Model U.N. conferences, including UM’s annual Montana Model U.N. High School Conference, NMUN’s goal is to encourage students to learn about international relations while expanding their skills in public speaking, negotiation and diplomacy.
For Nettleton, the most memorable moment of the conference was “when I completed the third merger of my working paper at 1 a.m.,” she recalled. “I felt extremely proud of my negotiation skills, but I also had the privilege of working with some very smart individuals who helped expand my knowledge.”

For Story, the high point was “being able to use both my language skills [Russian and Arabic] to make new friends and allies at the conference.”

According to Whisler, the “most memorable moment was being congratulated by almost every delegation after giving a rousing speech on cooperation, solidarity and the need to put personal prejudices aside to better work toward the common good.”

In a post-conference survey, the students strongly agreed that attending NMUN had increased their knowledge and skills, as well as their interest in studying international relations and working to solve world problems.

“National Model United Nations has been able to help shape what I would like to do after college,” Thomasson said. “After going to NMUN, I not only feel more confident about myself, but also in my ability to work together with the global community to solve the problems of today and the future.

"Without the NMUN, I would not have gotten the hands-on experience needed to be able to apply the skills that I have been learning the past three and a half years at UM," he said. "NMUN was like the final test to see if I actually knew what I was getting into, and I passed."

For more information or to acquire photos of the team during the conference, visit the MMUN team website at http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun/travelingteam/, call MMUN Faculty Adviser Karen Ruth Adams at 406-214-5451, email karen.adams@umontana.edu or call outgoing MMUN Team President Bloemen at 970-219-8908 or email christina.bloemen@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Karen Ruth Adams, associate professor, UM Department of Political Science, 406-214-5451, karen.adams@umontana.edu.
UM Hosts Symposium to Showcase High School Student Research

May 14, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its annual high school health science symposium, which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. Co-hosted by UM’s Center for Environmental Health Sciences and the Department of Chemistry, this annual event showcases research conducted by high school students participating in the indoor air quality program, Clean Air and Healthy Homes.

The symposium will feature oral and poster presentations by students from schools throughout Montana, Idaho and Alaska. As part of the CEHS Science Education Partnership Award, the program provides technology and training to students, encouraging them to collaboratively research real-world air pollution problems such as the health effects of radon, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.

The symposium provides students the opportunity to effectively communicate their research findings to their peers, teachers, University mentors and the public.

Also part of the CAHH program, UM scientists support professional development opportunities for teachers as
an important strategy to promote biomedical science training and careers in science, technology, engineering and math fields.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the National Institutes of Health's Office of Research Infrastructure Programs provide major funding for the symposium.

“This 10-year anniversary symposium event will celebrate the continuing success and growing regional network of school systems committed to environmental health research for innovative STEM learning across our region,” said Tony Ward, UM associate professor.

For more information visit https://cehsweb.health.umt.edu/education/k-12/sepa.

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**Contact:** Diana Vanek, outreach coordinator, UM Center for Environmental Health Sciences, 406-546-4254, diana.vanek@umontana.edu.
UM Student-Produced Documentary on Distracted Driving to Premiere on MontanaPBS

May 13, 2014

MISSOULA – Every year, thousands of people die on the streets and highways of the United States because of distracted drivers. Hundreds of thousands are injured. Campaigns and laws aim to reduce that number, but are they making any difference?

Seniors in the University of Montana School of Journalism’s Department of Radio-Television have produced a TV program exploring the impact of distracted driving on Montanans. The documentary features a busy Missoula mom who has trouble giving up her cell phone, a Kalispell business owner whose life never will be the same and a Sidney teenager whose tragedy is forcing a town to take a hard look in the mirror.

“Distracted: Eyes Off the Road” documents the culture of distraction among Montanans and explores what it will take to change. Cell phone laws are in place in a dozen Montana cities and counties, but cell phone use accounts for a fraction of the distracted-driving incidents.
Producer Conor Ballantyne, a senior from Plains, said he was surprised to learn that something as simple as a conversation can turn the brain away from driving.

“Viewers will come away understanding more about how we, as drivers, don’t pay attention to what we’re doing,” Ballantyne said.

Drivers eat and drink, adjust radios and controls, tend to children and pets and find all sorts of tasks to attend to while they’re driving. That behavior can mean a brush with the law or a tragic death, but the problem does not seem to be getting better. The documentary will show how the brain works when trying to multitask behind the wheel and why drivers often don’t see what’s right in front of them.

“People are so used to this behavior they don’t realize how dangerous it really is,” said director Max Barnum, a senior from Lake Forest, Ill.

“Distracted: Eyes Off the Road” will air on MontanaPBS at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 20. For more information visit the documentary’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/eyesofftheroad.

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Contact: Denise Dowling, interim dean, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-4143, denise.dowling@umontana.edu.
UM Ranked in Top 10 Peace Corps Master’s International Programs

May 09, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana ranks No. 8 on the Peace Corps' 2014 list of top Master’s International programs. There now are 15 UM Master’s International students making a difference overseas through Peace Corps service.

Established in 1989, the UM Master's International program allows students to earn their graduate degrees while serving in the Peace Corps. Since 1989 54 UM students have entered the program and served as volunteers.

"We are ecstatic to have earned such a high ranking yet again," said Amber Gladney, UM's Peace Corps campus representative. "UM’s Master's International programs make a difference in the lives of students and the international communities they serve by maximizing volunteer innovation in the field."

UM offers students two fields in which to pursue graduate-level work through the Master’s International program. Through the Intercultural Youth and Family Development program and the College of Forestry and Conservation, students pursue unique opportunities to earn their degree while working abroad.
Bridget Tinsley, a UM College of Forestry and Conservation student, worked toward her Master's International in southern Ethiopia.

“I applied the theoretical framework and critical analysis skills I learned at UM to witness and participate in development and environmental conservation efforts,” she said. “I acquired my own definitions for broad and general terms such as ‘poverty,’ and ‘hardship,’ and I learned firsthand what ‘development’ looks like in the global south.

“Though dramatically different, my time spent in and outside the classroom complemented each other well. It is a longer commitment than most master’s programs, but in the process I gained a strong and independent work ethic, enormous humility and flexibility to handle life’s largest and smallest challenges. I am grateful for the opportunities the College of Forestry and Conservation the Peace Corps has provided me.”

This year, UM also ranked No. 12 in the medium-sized schools category in the rankings of the top volunteer-producing colleges and universities. Since 1961, 811 UM alumni have served in the Peace Corps, with 22 currently serving overseas. The University also has a Peace Corps Prep program, which offers students a way to gain a competitive advantage by taking part in a curriculum that meets the needs of their degree while teaching them skills valuable to service in the Peace Corps.

“Peace Corps’ partnerships with colleges and universities create invaluable opportunities for students to apply what they’ve learned in the classroom to real-life situations,” said Peace Corps Acting Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet. “This hands-on experience along with the cross-cultural, language and technical knowledge that come from living and working abroad uniquely prepares students to succeed in today’s global job market.”

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**Contact:** Amber Gladney, UM Peace Corps campus representative, 406-243-2839, peacecorps@umontana.edu.
UM Ranked in Top 10 Peace Corps Master’s International Programs - UM News - University Of Montana

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UM Native American Center Featured in Book on Native Building Projects

May 09, 2014

MISSOULA – The Payne Family Native American Center at the University of Montana recently was featured in a new book titled “New Architecture on Indigenous Lands.” In the book, authors Joy Monice Malnar and Frank Vodvarka take readers on a virtual tour of Native building projects in Canada and the Western and Midwestern United States.

They categorize UM’s Payne Family Native American Center as “a remarkable example of a building that is responsive to tribal traditions, technologically advanced and ‘green.’”

As noted in the book, the Native American center is the first off-reservation building in Montana designed to symbolically represent Native Americans – specifically the 12 tribes of Montana – as well as being the first LEED Platinum building in the Montana University System.

“The Payne center draws inspiration from many cultural aspects and Montana tribal areas,” said campus architect Jameel Chaudhry. “The building is both culturally and historically symbolic – telling a story of the past, but also innovative and modern – sharing a way forward.”
Architect Daniel J. Glenn conceptualized the building after meeting with a group of tribal elders who said they wanted a design that was “boldly Native American.” Shortly after that meeting, Glenn came across a 1880s photograph that depicted a Salish encampment of tipis pitched in the Missoula Valley, and that photograph, according to Glenn, became the “heart of our design.”

The book details the building’s cultural references, the thoughtful selection of materials and their placements, and the reflection of a traditional teepee lodge in the building’s rotunda – now called the Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place – all are described in the book.

While the Payne center is a premier building on campus, it is not yet finished. Glenn recently was on campus overseeing the project’s final phase, the Elouise Cobell Land and Culture Institute, which will be located in the garden-level of the building. The building is named after Cobell, who died in 2011. She was a passionate advocate for Native rights. A member of the Blackfeet tribe, she was instrumental in obtaining a $3.4 billion Indian trust settlement from the federal government.

The new facility will engage students in project-based learning and outreach, bringing together existing UM programs for a new level of work around land and culture.

When finished, the space will include three large classrooms and a seminar space. One classroom will be dedicated to GIS and cultural studies and will feature 24 computer stations; the second classroom will be a general lecture hall; and the third will be a film and theater classroom. The seminar space will be located directly under the Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place and features a domed ceiling, which can be used as a planetarium. The seminar space also will be used by visiting elders as a gathering and lounge area.

According to Chaudhry, a grand opening of the space will be held sometime during early Autumn semester.

For more information call Chaudhry at 406-243-5576 or email jameel.chaudry@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Jameel Chaudhry, UM campus architect, 406-243-5576, jameel.chaudry@umontana.edu.
UM Native American Center Featured in Book on Native Building Projects - UM News - University Of Montana
Religious Studies Professor Recipient of Two Prestigious Fellowships

May 08, 2014

MISSOULA – Nathaniel Levtow has had an exciting semester. The University of Montana religious studies professor is the recipient of a Berlin Prize from the American Academy in Berlin and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship.

Established in 1994, the Berlin Prize is awarded each year to scholars, writers, policymakers and artists who represent the highest standard of excellence in their fields. Levtow will spend a semester conducting research at the American Academy in Berlin, where he will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue with American and German academic, corporate, cultural and political leaders.

The American Academy in Berlin has become one of Europe’s most visible and effective institutions of transatlantic dialogue in recent years and has been described as the world’s most important center for American intellectual life outside the United States.

“It will be an honor to represent UM at the American Academy in Berlin,” said Levtow, who is one of only 13 American Fellows attending the academy this fall and the first-ever Fellow from Montana. “I’ve dreamed of
spending a semester in Germany – Berlin especially – since I was an undergraduate student. Now I’ll finally have the chance to see and work in the great German universities and cultural institutions that gave birth to my field of modern biblical and religious studies."

The NEH fellowship represents an equally unique opportunity of an entirely different kind. Unlike the Berlin Prize, it is not linked to any single university or city. Rather, it gives scholars the chance to follow their research wherever it may take them, allowing Levtow to conduct research in the great libraries and antiquities museums of America, Europe and the Middle East.

“The NEH fellowship gives scholars the means to conduct difficult, important humanities scholarship and to communicate the necessity and value of humanities research in America today,” Levtow said. “It will also enable me to continue working on my project right here in Missoula, which means plenty of kayaking on the rivers after work.”

Founded in 1965, NEH is an independent federal agency and one of the largest funders of the humanities in the U.S. It promotes excellence in the humanities by awarding grants for top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent reviewers.

Through these fellowships, Levtow will use literary and archaeological evidence to produce the first catalog of evidence tracking the politically charged phenomenon of text destruction in the ancient world.

“I’ll identify and explain the significance of ancient text destruction traditions in the Bible,” Levtow said. “I believe this evidence will reveal the deep connections between religion, politics and writing at the dawn of literacy, in the Bible and through to today. If the digital revolution has shown us anything, it’s how the power of words continues to alter the history of nations, the freedoms of individuals and the world itself.”

While these fellowships provide Levtow the opportunity to focus on this work, he looks forward to sharing what he discovers with his students, emphasizing the importance of long-term investment in the humanities at UM.

“It’s important for me to note that I would not have received these fellowships without public support for the humanities,” he said. “The greatest responsibility I have is to use these fellowships to further humanist research and teaching at UM, to represent humanities scholarship to the best of my abilities, and to inform and inspire my students.”

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**Contact:** Ian Withrow, media and information coordinator, College of Humanities and Sciences, 406-243-2683, ian.withrow@mso.umt.edu.
Fifteen Project GO Scholarship Recipients to Visit UM

May 08, 2014

MISSOULA – Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center’s Defense Critical Language and Culture Program at the University of Montana will host 15 recipients of the Project GO Korean scholarship later this month.

Project GO is a nationwide program for ROTC cadets, which provides a study abroad experience and training in critical languages, exclusively focused on the languages of Middle East, Asia, Central Asia and African countries. The first group of scholarship recipients will begin their Korean language and cultural training at UM on May 19.

Project GO participants will receive two weeks of intensive, 90-hour course work. They will learn conversational Korean, culture and regional studies. They also will complete one day of language training conducted in complete isolation from English.

The program is designed for ROTC participants who are broadening their global education and want to enhance their Korean language skills. After, they will travel to Korea to continue to study and meet individuals from the South Korean ROTC program. This interaction will give them the chance to talk one-on-one with members of an allied nation’s ROTC program and begin building professional military relationships.
DCLCP at UM is one of the top language and culture training centers for the Department of Defense and other U.S. government agencies.

To learn more about this program, visit www.umt.edu/mansfield/dclcp/projectgo.php or call Daphne Felker at 406-243-3608.

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**Contact:** Daphne Felker, UM Defense Critical Language and Culture Program, 406-243-3608, daphne.felker@umontana.edu.
Irish Language Immersion Course Slated for July 19-26 in Butte

May 08, 2014

MISSOULA – The Friends of Irish Studies will host its annual weeklong Irish Language Immersion course July 19-26 at Montana Tech in Butte. The main objective is to impart a conversational knowledge of the Irish language.

Advanced- and beginner-level students have the option to take a credit or noncredit course. Three credits can be earned. The class costs $299 for non-Friends of the Irish Studies members and $279 for members. Classes will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 4:30 p.m.

“This course attracts students from all over the country,” said Traolach O’Riordain, director of the University of Montana’s Irish Studies Program. “It is designed to give students a living cultural experience with the hopes that they continue to preserve and promote their ancestral heritage.”

For those traveling to Butte to take the course, there are accommodations available on the Montana Tech campus for $25 per night. To view the facilities, visit http://www.mtech.edu/.
For more information or to register for the class, visit http://www.friendsofirishstudies.com and click on “Irish Language Immersion Course” under Upcoming Events, then click on “Learn the Language/Registration Sheet” at the top of the page.

The Friends of Irish Studies supports the UM Irish Studies Program, which offers a minor in Irish studies through courses on Irish language, history, literature, drama and dance.

For more information, call O’Riordain at 406-544-0311.

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Contact: Traolach O’Riordain, director, UM Irish Studies Program, 406-544-0311, traulach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu.
UM’s 117th Commencement Slated for May 17

May 08, 2014

MISSOULA – About 3,700 graduates and degree candidates are invited to participate in the University of Montana’s 117th Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 17, in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Events kick off at 7:30 a.m. with a free continental breakfast for degree candidates, graduates, their families and faculty hosted by UM President Royce Engstrom in the University Center Atrium.

The general ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The stadium opens at 8 a.m., and guests should be seated in the westside seating area by 9:30 a.m. No tickets are required.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock will deliver this year’s Commencement address. During the ceremony, Terry Payne, founder of the independent insurance company Terry Payne & Co. Inc., will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters; and John “Jack” Poe, former CEO and chairman of the semiconductor company Semtech, will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Business.

“We couldn’t be more proud and excited to confer honorary doctorates on Terry Payne and Jack Poe,” UM
President Royce Engstrom said. “Both of these men became giants in their respective industries, and they continually have provided their expertise and financial support to improve the University of Montana, which they acknowledge helped launch their amazing careers.”

Students will meet at 8:45 a.m. on the UM Oval to line up for the general ceremony and should look for signs to locate their departments. Faculty members, students and the platform party will begin a formal march from the Oval to the stadium at 9:30 a.m.

The ceremony will be live streamed at http://www.umt.edu/commencement/.

Following the general Commencement ceremony, attendees will disperse to various campus locations for individual departmental and college ceremonies. Individual ceremonies for professional schools begin at noon. Individual ceremonies for the College of Humanities and Sciences and Missoula College begin at 2 p.m.

UDASH shuttles to and from campus will run from 7:25 a.m. to 4:25 p.m. from the South Campus and East Broadway Park-N-Ride lots.

For more information visit http://www.umt.edu/registrar/ and click on “Commencement Information.”

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Contact: UM Registrar’s Office, 406-243-2995, officeoftheregistrar@umontana.edu.
UM Joins National STEM K-12 Education Provider Project Lead The Way

May 07, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana has joined Project Lead The Way, the nation’s leading provider of science, technology, engineering and math programs for students in grades K-12. UM’s new role as a PLTW affiliate reinforces the University’s support for STEM education and its dedication to providing high-quality educational opportunities for Montana students and teachers.

PLTW offers programs with pathways in engineering, biomedical science and computer science. As an affiliate, UM will offer professional development training programs to PLTW teachers, host annual conferences for school administrators and counselors, and provide ongoing support to PLTW schools throughout the state of Montana.

This summer, UM will offer teacher training for PLTW Launch, a program for students in grades K-5, which is designed to engage and inspire a love of math and science for students at a young age.

“We know that two variables are essential in increasing the number of students who consider a STEM major or career: math proficiency and student interest,” said Lisa Blank, UM’s affiliate director of PLTW Launch. “We...
also know that the best time to nurture awareness and interest in STEM careers is in the early elementary years.

“The opportunity to partner with PLTW means UM will be a leader in providing K-5 teachers with quality STEM training and curriculum that advances student learning and interest in math, science, technology and engineering.”

UM joins a cohort of approximately 50 other PLTW affiliate partners – colleges, universities and research institutions – that provide support for PLTW and its network of more than 5,000 schools in the U.S.

UM also plans to offer PLTW Biomedical Science training beginning in summer 2015. PLTW Biomedical Science is a hands-on, project-based sequence of four courses that allows high school students to study and investigate concepts of human medicine, physiology, genetics, microbiology and public health – learning content in the context of real-world cases.

Students explore the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease; work collaboratively to understand and design solutions to the most pressing health challenges; and study the many diverse career opportunities in health sciences.

Colleen Sullivan teaches Principles of Biomedical Science at Whitefish High School, where they have implemented the program. In years past, she and colleagues have traveled as far as California and Wisconsin to undergo teacher training for the program, but the new partnership with UM will offer training to Montana educators much closer to home.

Aside from allowing teachers to save on travel costs for training, Sullivan said UM’s involvement with PLTW will create a great link for students who have participated in the high school programs when they attend the University later.

“Just having one of our local universities supporting the programs is really cool,” Sullivan said.

High schools in Billings, Missoula, Helena, Bozeman and Whitefish currently use PLTW programs in the curriculum, but with a closer connection to an in-state affiliate, the programs likely will spread.

“The opportunity to partner with PLTW in advancing STEM education in the biomedical sciences provides a very exciting opportunity to connect the college’s expertise and mission in the health sciences with high school science curricula,” said David Forbes, dean of UM’s College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. “It not only will strengthen the pipeline for students to enter our college, but also represents a long-term investment in improving health care in Montana.”

While this is a new partnership, the University’s support of STEM education began several years ago. The Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences sponsors an annual Expanding Your Horizons Conference for girls to explore STEM, and recently constructed a lab to teach educators and students about 3-D design and printing. All K-8 teacher candidates in the school receive robotics training.

In the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, the Clean Air and Healthy Homes Program, spectrUM Discovery Area and the Big Sky Brain Project bring STEM education to underserved, rural
UM Joins National STEM K-12 Education Provider Project Lead The Way - UM News - University Of Montana

For more information call Blank at 406-243-5304 or email lisa.blank@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Lisa Blank, UM affiliate director for PLTW Launch, 406-243-5304, lisa.blank@umontana.edu.
UM Professor Receives Prestigious Teaching Honor

May 07, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana history Professor Kyle Volk is an inspirational educator who holds his students to the highest expectations, so it was no surprise to his students and colleagues when he recently was awarded the 2014 College of Humanities and Sciences’ Helen and Winston Cox Educational Excellence Award.

After coming to UM in 2007, Volk quickly became a prominent figure in the history department. Specializing in the political and legal histories of 19th-century America, Volk took on courses across the history curriculum, from teaching 400-student introductory classes to leading small-group undergraduate research seminars, and mentoring graduate students and doctoral candidates.

“His nomination materials presented him as a dynamic and energetic teacher,” said College of Humanities and Sciences Associate Dean Jenny McNulty.

His upper-division course, Intoxication Nation: Alcohol in American History, was named “one of the top-five courses every UM student should take” by the Kaimin newspaper, and is one of the most popular classes on
The carefully designed course is one of several new classes Volk has created that examine big themes in American history in new and exciting ways.

"I push students to ask their own historical questions with major stakes that matter for how we see the past as well as the present," Volk said. “It’s important to develop students’ intellectual capacities, active reading, critical thinking, informed discussion, deep research and compelling writing – so that they may begin to answer such questions in creative and complex ways.”

Outside the classroom, Volk is involved in a variety of activities. He serves as the director of undergraduate studies in history, coordinates biweekly seminars, mentors undergraduate and graduate students, and advises the UM chapter of the history honors society Phi Alpha Theta. His research has been supported by institutions such as the American Society for Legal History, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

According to Department of History Chair Robert Greene, “There is no other professor in this department who spends more time advising students, providing them with feedback on their papers and drafts and helping them improve their writing skills than Dr. Volk.”

The Helen and Winston Cox Educational Excellence Award is made annually to UM faculty in the College of Humanities and Sciences who are not yet tenured and demonstrate superior teaching, advising and mentoring of students.

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**Contact:** Jenny McNulty, associate dean, UM College of Humanities and Sciences, 406-243-4458, mcnulty@mso.umt.edu.
Bitterroot College to Host Presentation, Panel on Salish History, Culture

May 06, 2014

MISSOULA – Bitterroot College University of Montana, in collaboration with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and Humanities Montana, has developed two days of programming to provide accurate information for the community and local leaders regarding Salish history and connection to place, both past and present.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, Tony Incashola, Salish-Pend d’Oreille Culture Committee director, will present “The Medicine Tree,” a public lecture and cultural education on Salish-Pend d’Oreille worldview, values, stories, beliefs and contemporary connections.

On Thursday, May 22, Bitterroot College will host an invitation-only field trip to the Medicine Tree area for community leaders. At 7 p.m. that same evening, a facilitated panel discussion will focus on accurate information relating to historic and contemporary issues affecting the tribes and the Bitterroot Valley community.

Both evening events are free and open to the public. They will be held in the Montana Room of the Bitterroot River Inn, located at 139 Bitterroot Plaza Drive in Hamilton.
The program is designed to clarify the significance of the Salish belief systems relevant to the Medicine Tree and surrounding areas south of Hamilton. The presentation and panel will provide the community with an opportunity to hear traditional stories within a discussion of worldview. Elders will explain the significance of "place" from an American Indian and ethnogeographic perspective.

The information session and panel discussion will provide an opportunity for the community to listen and engage in dialogue focused on building relationships and understanding between cultures and increasing knowledge of the Salish worldview related to respect for the traditional stories, the Medicine Tree and place.

For more information call Bitterroot College Director Victoria Clark at 406-375-0100 or email victoria.clark@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Victoria Clark, director, Bitterroot College UM, 406-375-0100, victoria.clark@umontana.edu.
Bitterroot College to Host Presentation, Panel on Salish History, Culture

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For more information call Bitterroot College Director Victoria Clark at 406-375-0100 or email victoria.clark@umontana.edu.

Contact: Victoria Clark, director, Bitterroot College UM, 406-375-0100, victoria.clark@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Steve Running, Regents Professor of Ecology at the University of Montana, is a convening lead author on the forests chapter of the Third National Climate Assessment. The report, released May 6 by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, is required by Congress as an update on the current status of climate, observed changes and anticipated trends for the future in the United States.

Running and chapter co-lead Linda A. Joyce, a U.S. Forest Service scientist, worked for more than two years prioritizing the biggest impacts to forests from climate change across the U.S. They convened a team of authors from the University of Arizona, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, State University of New York Environmental Science and Forestry, Vision Forestry, Ohio State University and the U.S. Forest Service.

The authors identified several key issues in forested lands. The most important impact to forests are accelerated disturbances such as pine beetles and wildfires that could impact timber production, flooding, water budgets, carbon storage and more.

Secondly, U.S. forests currently store about 16 percent of the carbon dioxide emitted by fossil fuel burning in
the U.S. each year. Climate and changes in forest management will reduce this rate of carbon dioxide uptake.

The third finding addresses the role of bioenergy. Bioenergy could emerge as a new market for wood, but forest owners and managers also must consider the carbon-emission consequences of using wood for bioenergy.

“In Montana we could probably never make bioenergy a carbon neutral solution,” Running said. “The carbon emissions of transporting biomass to market are significant, and harvesting causes forests to become a source of CO₂ emissions before the trees grow back enough to become a carbon sink again.”

He said in Montana using materials left over from timber harvest makes the most sense to help bioenergy pencil out as an alternative to fossil fuels. “If we combine bioenergy with issues we have to solve anyway – like fuels thinning in the wildland-urban interface or restoration of beetle-killed forests, then bioenergy might be a winner in Montana,” Running said.

The chapter describes changing forest ownerships as a fourth major impact. This will play a role in how forest managers respond to climate change. For example, more private forests are now owned by investment management organizations that may or may not have active forest management as a primary objective.

The third National Climate Assessment also includes chapters on water, energy, transportation, agriculture, ecosystems, rural communities and more. The Global Change Research Act of 1990 requires an assessment report at least every four years.

The assessment is the most comprehensive analysis of how climate change affects the U.S. now and could affect it in the future.

The federal government produces these reports through the U.S. Global Change Research Program, a collaboration of 13 federal science agencies. The report is written by 240 authors drawn from academia; local, state and federal government; the private sector; and the nonprofit sector.

The full report is online at http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/.

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Contact: Steve Running, UM Regents Professor of Ecology, 406-243-6311, swr@ntsg.umt.edu.
UM Student Wins $1,000 Scholarship for Essay

May 06, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana student Rebecca Collins recently was awarded a $1,000 scholarship for her winning essay submitted to the inaugural Phi Beta Kappa Association of Western Montana Essay Contest. The scholarship will be used for the 2014-15 academic year.

Her essay, titled “Reflecting the Active World,” exposes her love of connecting her studies and self-reflection to action while at UM.

“The University of Montana rests in a place of praxis,” Collins wrote in her essay. “It recognizes that intellectual pursuit does not remain in books – it propels students into engagement. Nestled into mountains and wilderness areas, embraced by a bustling city, I am of the world and strive to be a person of informed action.”

Collins, a second-year junior, is from Forest Grove, Ore., and studies English literature and environmental studies. In the fall, she plans to complete 12 credits of independent study on the Camino de Santiago, a medieval pilgrimage in southern France and northern Spain. Equipped with knowledge from her interdisciplinary studies on pilgrimage history, European pilgrimage literature and nature writing, she will walk the Camino de
Santiago herself and do nature writing of her own.

“Ms. Collins’ essay demonstrates an admirable commitment to a searching examination of pressing human questions, especially the importance of thinking about the human relationship to the environment in an age of rapid change,” said UM English Professor Ashby Kinch. “The essay accomplishes this goal through an emphasis on the need for individual human growth, which she will endeavor to realize in her fall project of following the Camino de Santiago.”

Essay contestans were required to have a declared major within the College of Humanities and Sciences, have a minimum GPA of 3.75, have attained junior standing (minimum 60 credits) and fulfilled all of their general education requirements before applying. The essays were required to be between two to three pages in length and address the value of freedom of inquiry and liberty of thought in modern education.

"[Collins'] essay powerfully explores the importance of deep transformation as the root of commitment to making change in the world," Kinch said. "The committee thought that the earnest and eloquent expression of that goal made it exemplary of both the mission of the University of Montana and the goals and values of Phi Beta Kappa."

For more information email Kinch at ashby.kinch@umontana.edu.

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Local, Forest Grove News Times, Forest Grove Leader, Hillsboro Argus
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Contact: Ashby Kinch, UM English professor, 406-243-4462, ashby.kinch@umontana.edu.
UM to Host Annual Business Plan Competition

May 05, 2014

MISSOULA – Students from across the state will showcase their entrepreneurial aspirations during the annual John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition. This event will highlight the 25th anniversary of Montana’s statewide competition on Thursday, May 15, at the University of Montana.

The shared business ideas and educational experience of the competition have helped Montana in many ways, including leading to the creation of more than 65 businesses since its inception in 1989.

This year’s event will begin at 4:15 p.m. on the first floor of the Gallagher Business Building with a reception for all participants. The final round will be an exciting showdown as the audience selects its favorite competitor for the People’s Choice and Elevator Pitch Awards. The competition, sponsored by the UM School of Business Administration and the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs, is free and open to the public.

Past participants in the competition have said their experience is one of the most rewarding they have ever had. Taking the challenge seriously, some work on their formal written plans five months in advance. Many students spend weeks polishing their oral presentations.
Faculty from higher education institutions across Montana nominate 30 teams to compete. Judges then evaluate the written plans to select 16 teams to compete in the semifinal round. The teams will compete for more than $30,000 in prize money this year. Last year’s event drew an audience of 250 business leaders to hear pitches and presentations.

The prestigious panel of judges includes venture capitalists, angel investors, bankers, successful entrepreneurs and corporate executives. They offer feedback and narrow the field to four finalists, who present their plans during the final round to a larger audience.

The John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition is one of the highlights of spring semester at UM. The competition creates an atmosphere charged with the energy of information exchange and enthusiastic discussion.

For more information call UM School of Business Administration Special Programs Coordinator Larae Hackney at 406-243-4830, email larae.hackney@business.umt.edu or visit http://www.mtbusinessplan.com.

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Contact: Larae Hackney, special programs coordinator, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-4830, larae.hackney@business.umt.edu.
Missoula College Students Prepare Montana-Inspired Cuisine for Capstone Dinner

May 05, 2014

MISSOULA – Students in the Missoula College University of Montana Culinary Arts Program will host their annual Capstone Dinner at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 15, in the Ranch Club Event Barn located at 8501 Ranch Club Road.

Students crafted the menu for this year’s dinner, titled “A Montana Treasure.” It will showcase dishes inspired by Montana market basket items. The event is open to the public and tickets cost $85 per person.

Graduating culinary arts students will take guests on a journey across Montana through its fields and streams with menu items featuring bison, trout, quail, duck and Flathead cherries. There will be jam and jerky tasting station, and a local bluegrass band will play live music throughout the event. Participants can bid on food and other items during a silent auction.

Call 406-243-7870 to purchase tickets. All proceeds from the event will support the Culinary Arts Program.
which enables students to participate in regional and national competitions, field trips, conferences and the Capstone Dinner.

For more information on the event or to subscribe to the culinary program mailing list, call Program Director Thomas Campbell at 406-243-7831, email thomas.campbell@umontana.edu or email student Cedar Skye at cedar.skye@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Thomas Campbell, director, Missoula College Culinary Arts Program, 406-243-7831, thomas.campbell@umontana.edu.
UM Student Earns 2014 Kimmitt Internship

May 05, 2014

MISSOULA – Mona Schwartz, a University of Montana junior from Bozeman, will travel to Washington, D.C., this summer as the recipient of the 2014 J. Stanley Kimmitt Public Service Internship.

Schwartz, who majors in political science with a double minor in international development studies and Latin American studies, will serve as a summer intern for U.S. Sen. Jon Tester. The Kimmitt internship includes a $3,000 stipend.

“I am interested in many public policy issues, including immigration, Indian affairs, environmental issues, human and civil rights and women’s rights,” Schwartz said. “With an internship in Sen. Tester’s office, I will be able to learn much more about the American political process, public service and current policy issues to help advance change in the future.”

Schwartz is a Davidson Honors College student and will serve as vice president of Griz for UNICEF this fall. She also volunteers with the Women’s Resource Center and the North Missoula Community Development Corporation. She spent this past summer in Mexico studying politics, development, immigration and Spanish.
Since 2011, Schwartz has served as a staff member at Camp Equinox Summer Theatre Camp in Bozeman and has been an employee at the UC Market since spring 2013.

The Kimmitt intern is selected each year through a competitive application process. The review and ranking of this year’s internship applications were carried out by a UM faculty committee convened by Davidson Honors College Dean James McKusick. Finalists then were interviewed by staff in Tester’s office to determine their suitability for an internship in the U.S. Senate.

The internship is a public service opportunity for UM students established to honor J. Stanley Kimmitt, former secretary of the U.S. Senate and aide to Sen. Mike Mansfield. It rotates among all three members of the Montana congressional delegation.

The next Kimmitt internship will be awarded in summer 2015. A call for applications for that award will be announced this fall by the Davidson Honors College. For more information, call 406-243-2541 or email dhc@umontana.edu.

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Contact: James McKusick, dean, UM Davidson Honors College, 406-243-2541, dhc@umontana.edu.
UM Business School Honors Alumni for Career Achievements

May 05, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Business Administration will honor three alumni for outstanding career achievements at the 67th annual Donor Recognition and Scholarship Awards Banquet on Friday, May 9.

The alumni who will be honored are Patrick Hanley, Outstanding Distinguished Alumnus; Corey Edens, Outstanding Alumnus; and Kayreen Handley, Outstanding Early Career Alumna.

Hanley is a Montana native from Lewistown. He began his career in accounting after earning a Bachelor of Science in business administration in 1977 from UM. Hanley held increasingly responsible positions with KPMG for more than 30 years, including working in Australia and Chile.

Hanley advised organizations primarily focusing on the mining, oil and gas industries. His interest stemmed from his upbringing in Lewistown and nearby Maiden, the historic gold-mining town where his grandfather settled in 1895 as a miner and prospector. As the seventh of 11 children born to Edward “Red” and Selma Hanley, Patrick learned about hard work and perseverance, lessons which have carried him throughout his
Hanley retired from KPMG in 2011. His family continues their personal philanthropic and community service interests in Seattle. Hanley serves as an analyst with his daughter Elizabeth Hanley’s law firm. He spends as much of the summer as possible in the Montana restored “ghost” town, frequently joined by their five children: Elizabeth, Juliann, Michael, Kathleen and Teresa and their five grandchildren. Hanley credits his accomplishments in no small part to his wife of 40 years, Marilyn.

Corey Edens grew up enjoying the Big Sky Country on the Hi-Line in Cut Bank. He attended UM and graduated with high honors in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in accounting.

Edens has held executive, finance and accounting positions with companies such as Valcon Distributing, the Microsoft Network and real estate and computer industries. He also spent a year in Switzerland working in foreign currency risk management. In 2000, Corey formed Rim Tec Inc. with a longtime friend, focusing on creating solutions to assist multinational companies in understanding and managing financial risk associated with foreign currencies.

Edens serves as the chief solution officer of FiREapps, Rim Tec’s cloud-based foreign currency analytics application, overseeing product and solution strategy. He has been published in the Journal of Corporate Treasury Management and is a frequent speaker at industry events.

Edens has chaired the UM Business Advisory Council, co-chaired fundraising efforts for the creation of the career development position at UM’s School of Business Administration and has served two terms on the UM Foundation Board of Trustees.

Edens and his wife, Kay, reside in Phoenix. They keep busy with their seven children, new granddaughter and their Bernese mountain dog.

Handley was born in Missoula County, growing up on her parent’s ranch in Clinton. She graduated from Hellgate High School in 1988, and in 1992 earned a Bachelor of Science from UM in business administration with high honors.

After graduation, Handley went to work for KPMG in the audit practice of the Billings office and then spent two years in KPMG’s Department of Professional Practice in New York City. She moved to Seattle in 2004 and currently is an audit partner with KPMG LLP.

Handley’s recent focus has been on providing audit services to forest products companies, companies providing software as a service, for-profit health care providers, health care product manufacturers and biotechnology companies. She also audits clients in the road cargo transportation, highway and heavy construction, mining, power generation and banking industries.

Handley is a securities and exchange commission reviewing partner, an audit methodology partner, a diversity partner champion and has experience with complex accounting and reporting issues for both the public and private sectors. Her experience includes securities and exchange commission reporting, internal control over financial reporting, mergers and acquisitions, lease accounting, accounting for income taxes and accounting for share-based payment arrangements.
Handley is a licensed CPA in Montana, Washington and New York state, and is member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants. She has served on the School of Business Administration’s Accounting and Finance Advisory Board and currently serves as the secretary/treasurer of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington & Alaska. She resides in Issaquah, Wash.

UM’s School of Business Administration is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, the most rigorous accrediting body for business degree programs. The school’s faculty includes renowned scholars recognized for pioneering contributions to their field. Graduates continue a strong tradition of leadership at the highest level in entrepreneurial ventures and in leading corporations.

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

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

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UM Student Club Attends Conference, Wins Awards

May 05, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana student Whitney Snow, of Olympia, Wash., recently was awarded the American Indian Business Leader 2013-14 Student of the Year award. She was recognized at the 20th annual American Indian Business Leaders conference, which was held April 10-12 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Snow is a junior majoring in political science with a minor in Native American studies. She is from the Suquamish Nation in Washington state and has been a member of the AIBL UM student chapter for the past three years, and currently serves as its president.

Other UM chapter members also attended the conference and competed in the business plan competition. The team took second place for their Web-based company that would exchange Native American arts and crafts between people across the country and the world. The business plan was developed as a way to help Native American artists sell their work to buyers outside of their towns or reservations.

Judges – who comprised philanthropists, venture capitalists, finance officers and entrepreneurs – evaluated the plans based upon their potential to become a viable new venture. The UM team was awarded $500 for their
second-place finish.

The UM students who participated are Shawn Heavy Runner, Donovan Last Star, Aubrey Ground, Ronnel Goss, Robert Gauthier, Edmond Dupuis, Marcus Omeasoo and Thomas Shawl.

AIBL’s mission is to increase the representation of American Indians and Alaska Natives in business and entrepreneurial ventures through education and leadership development opportunities.

For more information call UM American Indian Student Services Eldena Bear Don't Walk interim director at 406-243-6352 or email eldena.beardontwalk@mso.umt.edu.

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Fundraising Record Broken with $37.4 Million Donated to UM

May 02, 2014

MISSOULA – This will go down as a record-breaking year for fundraising at the University of Montana. The UM Foundation has received $37.4 million in donations and pledges this fiscal year, which began July 1. This breaks a record set in 2008, when fundraising totaled $36.7 million. This year’s total comes from 10,000 individual gifts.

“We are tremendously grateful to all who have contributed this year,” said UM President Royce Engstrom. “Many of these donations will provide scholarships and fund faculty positions for generations to come.”

The UM Foundation includes cash gifts and pledges in its fundraising totals. About half of the fundraising total is comprised of estate commitments. This means the donor has pledged to leave the University a portion of his or her estate. The University will receive those gifts in the future.

Many individuals stepped forward with sizable cash gifts and pledges. These include:

- $5 million for a scholarship endowment from an anonymous donor.
$2.4 million from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation for a pilot of EdReady, an online college-prep curriculum.

- $1 million for scholarships for nontraditional students from the Bernard and Barbro Foundation.
- $800,000 for scholarships for law students from Zander and Andy Blewett, of Great Falls.
- $850,000 to archive the congressional papers of former Sen. Max Baucus.

“This unprecedented level of giving demonstrates the trust our alumni and friends have in President Engstrom, his administration and the faculty,” said Michael McDonough, chair of the UM Foundation Board of Trustees. “We also have seen the deep passion our alumni have for supporting students with scholarships.”

Last July, Engstrom and the UM Foundation launched a three-year initiative called Investing in Student Success. This year’s fundraising total includes $20.3 million toward the initiative. The rest of the gifts and pledges are for programs and support for faculty across the University.

“The groundwork laid by many people in the past has led to this year’s success,” said Shane Giese, president and CEO of the UM Foundation. “There is so much more to be done. This is just the beginning of the Foundation’s increased support for this great University.”

The UM Foundation is the fundraising arm for the University. The Foundation focuses on increasing support for the University’s strategic goals. It is led by a 40-member Board of Trustees composed of alumni and friends from across the country.

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Contact: Peggy Kuhr, vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, peggy.kuhr@mso.umt.edu; Beth Hammock, associate vice president, marketing and communications, UM Foundation, 406-243-4609, beth.hammock@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The Associated Students of the University of Montana Neighborhood Ambassadors will host its second annual University Neighborhood Block Party from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 4. The party is free and open to the public and will be held on the 400 block of University Avenue, just one block from the western edge of campus.

The event will feature live music and fun activities for both kids and adults. Ice cream will be available for purchase from The Big Dipper ice cream truck, ASUM Transportation Bike Ambassadors will offer free bike tune-ups and the UM FLAT will host a seed-planting station.

Other campus and community organizations, including the Office of Neighborhoods and the Kyi-Yo Native American Student Association, will host tables with information and activities for attendees.

The event is part of the Neighborhood Ambassador Program’s mission to foster positive relations between UM and its neighborhood.
“We are excited to bring together the UM student renters and permanent residents that live side by side on the streets surrounding our campus,” said Katherine Brady, director of the ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center. “This event is a great excuse to come together and celebrate our vibrant community.”

For more information call Brady at 406-243-2017 or email katherine.brady@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Katherine Brady, director, ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center, 406-243-2017, katherine.brady@mso.umt.edu.
UM Student Takes Second in International Business Competition

May 01, 2014

MISSOULA – More than 1,700 students from across the globe recently competed in the semiannual Capsim Challenge to see who has the corporate intellect to be a winning CEO. University of Montana School of Business Administration recent graduate student Donna Weathers took second place in the competition.

Students from 36 countries competed in the online challenge, in which participants manage a simulation of a multimillion-dollar company. Weathers entered the challenge after using the simulation program in a School of Business Administration class.

“I enjoyed learning how to configure and calculate what I anticipated the market would do,” she said. “When the challenge came up, there was no doubt I would participate and try and push the limits of the simulation even further.”

Capsim is the world’s largest business simulation platform. More than 500 universities and corporations use the introductory Foundation or more complex Capstone programs.
UM Associate Professor Shawn Clouse teaches the Integrative Business Simulation course, coaching student teams through their own simulations.

“The simulations are designed to get students to think like executives,” Clouse said. “They play against each other in class and make decisions based on how other people play the game.”

Though Weathers competed individually in the international challenge, she completed simulations as part of a team in the classroom, a dynamic she calls both interesting and frustrating.

“Suggestions were often made that potentially could hurt or help our results, and we all had to come to a consensus about what our final submission would be,” she said. “This team experience I believe will be helpful when I need to make difficult decisions that impact the future of employees.”

Weathers is preparing her business plan for the upcoming John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition, which will be held Thursday, May 15, at the School of Business Administration. She took second place in the school’s fall business plan competition and received an automatic bid to the prestigious and competitive Ruffatto event.

For more information call Weathers at 406-243-5223 or email donna.weathers@umontana.edu.

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UM Student Takes Second in International Business Competition - UM News - University Of Montana
UM News

UM News

UM, Missoula Schools to Showcase Innovative Partnership

May 01, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana and Missoula County Public Schools have embarked on a groundbreaking collaboration called SHAPE P20 to transform the relationship among classrooms, schools and student experiences across the education continuum – with the potential to shape the future of public education in the United States.

Faculty and staff from UM, the Montana Digital Academy and MCPS will gather Thursday, May 8, in UM’s Phyllis J. Washington Education Center to present new and innovative blended-learning project models to invited guests from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the University and Missoula public schools.

SHAPE P20 is funded by a gift from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. A crucial piece of this partnership revolves around the emerging concept of blended learning, which has been spearheaded by the UM-based Montana Digital Academy.

“What a privilege to bring together exemplary K-12 teachers, University professors and academic administrators from both sides to refine and create leading-edge approaches to learning,” said Roberta Evans,
It is exactly this shoulder-to-shoulder learning that excites education professionals and fosters true change in school systems and universities."

Blended learning, the combining of Web-based educational technology with highly effective face-to-face instruction of students, is the basis for a new graduate level course created by the Montana Digital Academy as a part of the SHAPE P20 project, said Robert Currie, executive director of the academy.

The course, Montana Online Blended Learning for K-12 Educators, otherwise known as MOBL K-12, was developed by Ryan Schrenk, MTDA project manager, and introduced teams of MCPS teachers and administrators to several different models of blended learning.

“I'm pleased to see the innovative blended-learning projects developed by Missoula County Public School teachers move from creative ideas in January to concrete proposals today that will be implemented by the district next fall,” Schrenk said.

“MTDA provides online courses to thousands of students across the state each year, and we have been looking for a way to introduce blended learning as an option for schools,” Schrenk said. “Once again, Washington Foundation support and the leadership of Dean Roberta Evans gave us the opportunity to be a part of the innovative SHAPE P20 project.”

The MCPS team focused on researching and planning projects that later will be implemented in elementary, middle or high school classrooms in Missoula.

“Missoula County Public Schools is proud to have more than 40 innovative educators participating in this class,” said Hatton Littman, MCPS director of technology and communication for Missoula County Public Schools. “Professional development opportunities like this demonstrate our investment in high-quality teaching staff and always enable teachers to bring new projects and ideas back into their classrooms.”

Littman said MCPS continues to make progress on a district goal to transform the learning environment and personalize professional growth through professional development opportunities like this one.

“We value our partnerships with the University of Montana and the Washington Foundation,” she said, “which make realizing our goals possible.”

For more information on SHAPE P20 and its blended-learning component, visit [http://coehs.umt.edu](http://coehs.umt.edu) or call 406-243-4911.

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UM, Missoula Schools to Showcase Innovative Partnership - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Peter Knox, communications and outreach manager, UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, 406-243-4911, peter.knox@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Motion, one of the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area’s popular traveling exhibitions, will visit the Hi-Line communities of Harlem on Tuesday, May 6, and Havre on Wednesday, May 7.

Featuring hands-on exhibits and activities exploring the wonders of physics and engineering, Motion will transform the gyms at Harlem High School and Havre Middle School into interactive science museums. Highlights of the exhibition include a larger-than-life spinning turntable, a gravity well, Bernoulli Blower, flying cups and spectrUM’s ever-popular flight simulator.

The spectrUM Discovery Area travels the state with a mobile science center featuring interactive exhibits. According to spectrUM director Holly Truitt, the goal of spectrUM’s mobile outreach is to “help inspire Montana’s next generation of scientists, health care providers, engineers and visionaries.”

Since 2006, spectrUM has driven more than 22,100 miles to bring educators, exhibitions and programs to 60 different schools in 23 Montana counties, including all seven Montana Indian reservations. All together the mobile science programs have served more than 34,080 people, of whom 30 percent are Native American and 75 percent are from rural communities.

Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive
science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula. Annually, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans through in-museum and mobile programming.

National sponsors and partners include SciGirls, the NISE Network, the Western Montana Area Health Education Center and the Noyce Foundation. SpectrUM is supported by funding sources such as the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program.

Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has given the gift of science to more than 17,000 Montana children. Both of these stops on spectrUM’s mobile science tour are powered by North Central Talent Search.

The spectrUM Discovery Area, located at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula, is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person. Teachers or schools interested in booking a field trip to the spectrUM museum or who would like to arrange a stop on spectrUM’s mobile tour can call 406-728-STEM.

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**Contact:** Hannah Motl, spectrUM outreach coordinator, 406-243-4828, hannah.motl@umontana.edu.
Sixteen UM Students Honored for Contributions to Missoula

May 01, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana students recently were honored for their contributions to the Missoula community at the Spring Leadership Recognition ceremony. The students were nominated by the local agencies and nonprofits with whom they volunteer.

The 2014 nominees were:

- Victoria Madgwick, Alliance for Disability and Students of UM
- Krysti Shallenberger, Clark Fork Coalition
- Amanda Reiber, Service Animals for You and Service Animal Association
- Aidan Kendall, UM Dining
- Miranda Fox, United Way of Missoula County
- Brynn Sutherland, Missoula Public Library
- Samantha Birch, Imagine Missoula
- Kayte Epperson, UM Student Advocacy Resource Center
- Miranda Bradley, Planned Parenthood of Montana
- Beth Glueckert, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana
Sixteen UM Students Honored for Contributions to Missoula - UM News - University Of Montana

- Adam Busch, MontPIRG
- Marie Pettit, YWCA
- Brandon Bart, MontPIRG
- Liza Ginnings, MontPIRG

Each year, the Outstanding Student Volunteer awards are given to student volunteers who devote a significant amount of their time and energy to meeting community needs. The UM Office for Civic Engagement hopes to bolster the spirit of service by honoring these individuals.

The 2014 winners are Travis Tikka, who works with the Poverello Center, Inc., and Jeff Wilson, who volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates of Missoula.

“This year’s Outstanding Student Volunteer awards went to two incredible individuals,” said UM Office for Civic Engagement Student Programs Manager Colleen Kane. “The awards recognize the invaluable contributions of all volunteers, without their service, most agencies and nonprofits would not be able to function.”

The OCE, a department of the Davidson Honors College, was founded as Volunteer Action Services at UM in 1992. The OCE serves as the University’s primary agent of community activism and civic responsibility. Through various programs and projects, the OCE promotes civic engagement as a means to develop actively engaged citizens in our democratic society.

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Contact: Colleen Kane, student programs manager, UM Office for Civic Engagement, 406-243-5128, colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu.
Sixteen UM Students Honored for Contributions to Missoula - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – A vocal scholarship brought Neal Lewing to the University of Montana School of Music in 1970. The prolific musician, producer and arts educator will pay it forward, presenting a benefit concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 9, in the School of Music Recital Hall.

The concert is free and open to the public. In lieu of admission, Lewing encourages friends and fans to make a donation to the School of Music General Scholarship Fund.

Lewing’s performance on the historic stage is especially meaningful. The senior recital in that hall has been a rite of passage for UM music students since the building was constructed more than 60 years ago. But as Lewing entered his junior year, a heart-to-heart with his adviser, the late Professor George Lewis, changed the course of his career and interrupted his education before he had a chance to perform in the Music Recital Hall.

Lewing already was playing as a professional, and business was booming. Struggling to balance his work and academic life, he sought advice from Lewis, who encouraged him to follow his heart and go on the road. In 1972, Lewing did just that.
"I went to UM for four years and finished in 1974," he said. "I never got a degree, though I did get an education. George Lewis taught me how to keep my voice in shape and to follow my star."

Lewing’s star led to performing on stages around the country and being heard on radio stations around the globe. He toured with the Missoula Children’s Theatre, performed and directed music for the Fort Peck Summer Theatre, and co-founded and directed Deer Lodge’s Old Prison Players.

A passionate advocate of arts education, Lewing still performs and teaches in schools and communities around Montana. He was appointed by the governor to serve on the Montana Arts council from 2001 to 2007. In 2008, the Polson Chamber of Commerce named him the Polson Ambassador of the Year in recognition of his contributions to the community as managing director of the Port Polson Players. For more than 30 years, Lewing and his wife, Karen, have led the company, which features multilevel programs such as community theater, children’s theater, summer theater and other performing arts opportunities.

Though there’s certain to be nostalgia in the air, Lewing is clear that he devised the feel-good concert with the future in mind.

"I’ve made my life in music and theater and would like to recognize my roots and give back to promote the same for young people," he said. And he hopes his story will inspire students facing a crossroads as they make career decisions. “Obviously, one does not have to follow any specific roadmap to have a successful and productive life in the arts.”

To make a gift to the UM School of Music Scholarship Fund, call Christian Gold Stagg, UM College of Visual and Performing Arts director of development, at 406-243-4990, email christian.goldstagg@umontana.edu or visit http://umt.edu/umarts.

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**Contact:** Christian Gold Stagg, director of development, UM College of Visual and Performing Arts, 406-243-4990, christian.goldstagg@umontana.edu.
UM Students Receive Critical Language Scholarships from U.S. Department of State

May 01, 2014

MISSOULA – Two University of Montana students will jet across the globe this summer to undertake intensive language and cultural training as part of the U.S. Department of State Critical Languages Scholarship Program.

UM seniors Morgan Azeka and Kyle Koslosky are among 550 U.S. university students selected to participate in the CLS Program. They will spend seven to 10 weeks studying overseas through an all-expenses-paid scholarship.

Azeka, of Hanapepe, Hawaii, will study Arabic in Nizwa, Oman, a country located on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Koslosky, of Somers, will study Japanese in Himeji, on Japan’s main island.

The students will spend several hours a day in the classroom perfecting their technical knowledge of the language, but also will have opportunities to interact with the community and immerse themselves in the culture and dialects of the region. Before leaving the U.S. in June, they will participate in an orientation program in
Azeka became interested in Arabic during high school and came to UM specifically to pursue the language. She has worked as a volunteer teaching assistant with UM Arabic language and culture Lecturer Samir Bitar and as a teaching assistant in the Montana Arabic Summer Institute at UM, which offers introductory Arabic courses to Montana high school students. She also studies politics.

"Most of my life, my country has been active in the Arab world, in general and the Middle East overall," she said. "I've seen it as something that's been important in the country. Recently, I've been looking more into the understanding part, and I'm looking to bridge the gap because there are a lot of misunderstandings – especially on the American side – of the Arab world."

Azeka said she hopes to use her Arabic skills in foreign affairs work, helping to build a healthier relationship between the U.S. and the Arab world.

Koslosky first became interested in Japanese during a study abroad trip to Italy four years ago. He met a Japanese student there, which he said opened his eyes to the bigger world of cross-cultural understanding. He later volunteered at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperative trade conference held at Big Sky Resort, where he met people from Asia, as well as people working with the U.S. Department of State.

With a minor in linguistics, Koslosky is interested in working in education or with the government, translating, interpreting or working at an embassy or consulate.

"This program is a great opportunity in whatever direction I want to go because it's sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, and from what I've heard the outcomes are a once-in-a-lifetime deal," he said. "You have the opportunity to be immersed in the language and be around it constantly. I think that's really important for anyone who wants to advance their language and cultural fluency."

The CLS Program is part of a U.S. government effort to expand dramatically the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages.

UM's Arabic and Japanese programs are part of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures.

For more information call Laure Pengelly Drake, director of external scholarships and advising for the UM Davidson Honors College, at 406-243-6140 or email laure.pengellydrake@umontana.edu. More information on the CLS Program is available online at http://www.clscholarship.org.

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