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New Research Reveals How Wild Rabbits Were Genetically Transformed into Tame Rabbits

August 29, 2014

MISSOULA – Until recently, little has been known about what genetic changes transform wild animals into domesticated ones. An international team of scientists, one of whom is a University of Montana assistant professor, has made a breakthrough by showing that genes controlling the development of the brain and the nervous system were particularly important for rabbit domestication.

The study was published Aug. 28 in *Science* and gives answers to many genetic questions. It is online at <http://www.sciencemag.org/>.

The domestication of animals and plants, a prerequisite for the development of agriculture, is one of the most important technological revolutions during human history. Domestication of animals started as early as 9,000 to 15,000 years ago and initially involved dogs, cattle, sheep, goats and pigs.

The rabbit was domesticated much later, about 1,400 years ago, at monasteries in southern France. It has

been claimed that rabbits were domesticated because the Catholic Church had declared that young rabbits were not considered meat, but fish, and could therefore be eaten during Lent. When domestication occurred, the wild ancestor, the European rabbit, was confined to the Iberian Peninsula and southern France.

“The domestication of rabbits depended upon small genetic changes in many genes rather than more radical mutations in a few genes,” explained Jeffrey Good, UM assistant professor and a co-author on the study. “This pattern contrasts with the large-effect genetic changes that are typically associated with striking differences in the size or appearance of diverse domestic dog breeds, for example. These results are exciting because they shed light on what types of genetic modifications are likely to be important during the early stages of domestication.”

The scientists first sequenced the entire genome of one domestic rabbit to develop a reference genome assembly. Then, they resequenced entire genomes of domestic rabbits representing six different breeds and wild rabbits sampled from 14 different places across the Iberian Peninsula and southern France.

“No previous study on animal domestication has involved such a careful examination of genetic variation in the wild ancestral species,” said Leif Andersson, a professor at Uppsala University, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Texas A&M University. “This allowed us to pinpoint the genetic changes that have occurred during rabbit domestication.”

In contrast to domestic rabbits, wild rabbits have a very strong flight response because they are hunted by eagles, hawks, foxes and humans and therefore must be very alert and reactive to survive in the wild.

In fact, Charles Darwin wrote in “On the Origin of Species” that “...no animal is more difficult to tame than the young of the wild rabbit; scarcely any animal is tamer than the young of the tame rabbit.” Darwin used domestic animals as a proof-of-principle that it is possible to change phenotypes by selection.

The scientists involved in the current study have now been able to reveal the genetic basis for this remarkable change in behavior, and the study has given important new insights about the domestication process.

The study also revealed which genes have been altered during domestication. The researchers were struck by the strong enrichment of genes involved in the development of the brain and the nervous system, which are among the genes particularly targeted during domestication.

The study also shows that the wild rabbit is a highly polymorphic species that carries gene variants that were favorable during domestication, and that the accumulation of many small changes led to the inhibition of the strong flight response – one of the most prominent phenotypic changes in the evolution of the domestic rabbit.

“We predict that a similar process has occurred in other domestic animals and that we will not find a few specific genes that were critical for domestication,” Andersson said.

For more information call Good at 406-243-5771 or email jeffrey.good@umontana.edu.

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UM Named Among Top 100 Schools by Washington Monthly

August 28, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana recently made the list of top universities in the nation as ranked by research, service and social mobility. Washington Monthly magazine, a nonprofit publication, gave UM an overall ranking of 97th among 277 schools in the “National Universities” category.

The national magazine rates schools based on their contribution to the public good through recruiting and graduating low-income students, producing cutting-edge scholarship and research, and encouraging students to give something back to their country. UM also made the list in 2013.

“Instead of crediting colleges that reject the most applicants, we recognize those that do the best job of enrolling and graduating low-income students,” Washington Monthly editors wrote in the introduction to the 2014 list. “Our rankings measure both pure research spending and success in preparing undergraduates to earn Ph.Ds. And by giving equal weight to public service, we identify colleges that build a sense of obligation to their communities and the nation at large.”

View the rankings at http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/college_guide/2014.php.

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UM Offers Student Health Program to Combat Obesity

August 28, 2014

MISSOULA – Curry Health Center at the University of Montana will launch a new semester of Weigh To Go UM! on Monday, Sept. 22, offering programs to help students take charge of their health and well-being through weekly group workouts, educational workshops and one-on-one wellness coaching.

According to data from the 2014 National College Health Assessment, nearly half of UM students are overweight or obese. This number has increased more than 12 percent since 2004. The data was collected online by NCHA in spring 2014 from 802 randomly selected UM students. Students were categorized by body mass index – BMI – based on self-reported height and weight.

“In addition to preventing future health issues associated with obesity, helping students develop healthy lifestyle skills can increase students’ success during their college careers,” said Kayli Julius, UM Optimal Bear coordinator.

Weigh To Go UM! features resources from campus programs such as UM Dining, Campus Recreation and Curry Health Center Wellness, with support from UM Optimal Bear peer health coaches. Activities include

group fitness classes, hikes to the M, nutrition education and more.

“The program will empower UM students with knowledge, skills and encouragement to make lifestyle changes that will help them slim down and improve their overall quality of life,” Julius said.

Registration for the eight-week program costs \$30 and closes Friday, Sept. 19. Students can register by calling Julius at 406-243-6719 or emailing optimalbear@mso.umt.edu. For more information contact Julius or visit <http://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/wellness/Weigh-to-Go-UM.php>.

###

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UM Cicada Study Discovers Two Genomes that Function as One

August 28, 2014

MISSOULA, Mont. – Two is company, three is a crowd. But in the case of the cicada, that's a good thing.

Until a recent discovery by a University of Montana research lab, it was thought that cicadas had a symbiotic

relationship with two important bacteria that live within the cells of its body. Since the insect eats a simple diet consisting solely of plant sap, it relies on these bacteria to produce the nutrients it needs for survival.

In exchange, those two bacteria, *Hodgkinia* and *Sulcia*, live comfortably inside the cicada. Since all three divvy up the nutritional roles, each member of the symbiosis is completely dependent on the others for survival.

So, where does this third-wheel bacterium come into play?



That is exactly what UM microbiologist John McCutcheon and his team of colleagues stumbled upon once they started delving deeper into the genome sequence of the essential bacteria. Instead of two bacterial symbionts, they actually identified three. *Sulcia* was predictably still there, but they found two different kinds of *Hodgkinia*. What previously was thought to be a tripartite, or a three-way symbiosis, is now proven to actually be a four-way symbiosis.

Their work was published in the Aug. 28 issue of *Cell*, a prestigious scientific journal in an article titled “Sympatric speciation in a bacterial endosymbiont results in two genomes with the functionality of one.”

The researchers discovered that *Hodgkinia* had subtly become more complex in what McCutcheon explained as a speciation event, in which the original lineage split to produce two separate but interdependent species of *Hodgkinia*.

“We just didn’t expect it,” McCutcheon said of this discovery. “I had thought my student made a mistake, but he proved me wrong.”

It took a keen eye to identify what were actually two separate versions of the bacteria that were acting as one.

“When we looked at the genes, they were clearly closely related to each other,” McCutcheon said. “If there was a broken gene in one version of *Hodgkinia*, it would be complete and functional on the other and visa-versa. So, the functional genes in each, when working together, seem to operate as one.”

Because they only are complete when they operate as a team, they are reliant on each other just as the *Sulcia*, and ultimately the cicada, is reliant on their contributions to the symbiotic ecosystem.

“This is an obligate symbiosis – all of the organisms in there need each other,” McCutcheon said. “We’ve shown that what was once a three-way symbiosis is now a four-way symbiosis.”

This unexpected discovery piqued the interest of McCutcheon, who theorizes that this evolutionary development is a result of “slop and chance.” However, this accidental evolution may answer some questions about how other organisms have evolved and become more sophisticated over time.

Hodgkinia’s development closely parallels that of a path of some organelles. Essentially, organelles are to cells what an organ is to the human body. Mitochondria of our own cells are organelles, and like *Hodgkinia*, are derived from symbiotic bacteria.

In the case of the cicada, *Hodgkinia*’s speciation event added a new member to the symbiotic team but it did not add any new functionality to the symbiosis. McCutcheon writes in the paper that, “this process parallels what is observed in some organelles, where massive genome expansions result in little if any observable increase in function.”

Understanding the development of organelles is fundamental to understanding the development of life. Because organelles arose such a long time ago, it’s impossible to trace back to the specific events that allowed the organelle to become what it is today. By examining *Hodgkinia*’s evolution, researchers in McCutcheon’s lab are hoping to gain insight into the storied pasts of organelles whose history has since been erased.

The paper is available online at [http://www.cell.com/cell/abstract/S0092-8674\(14\)01037-X](http://www.cell.com/cell/abstract/S0092-8674(14)01037-X). A video describing the lab's discovery also has been published online. It can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRI2JxTzJ-0&list=UUISV2Tk7x-wBBXP6-VCNbNw>.

For more information, call McCutcheon at 406-243-6071 or email john.mccutcheon@umontana.edu.

###

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UM Professor Offers Free Lecture in Honor of Montana Woman Suffrage Centennial

August 27, 2014

MISSOULA – In honor of the 100th anniversary of woman suffrage in Montana, University of Montana History Professor and Co-Director of Women’s and Gender Studies Anya Jabour, will make herself available to deliver a free local lecture titled “Montana Women Making History.”

Her lecture offers biographical sketches of some of Montana’s most significant women reformers such as Jeannette Rankin, the Missoula pacifist who voted against U.S. entry into both world wars; Hazel Hunkins, a Billings woman who went to federal prison for picketing the White House on behalf of suffrage; Maggie Smith Hathaway, who pioneered child welfare legislation in the state; and Helen Piotopowaka Clarke, the first Native American woman elected to public office in the Montana Territory.

A group of UM faculty, staff and students, together with Missoula community members, have formed an ad hoc centennial committee to coordinate a variety of local and statewide projects to commemorate the 100th anniversary year. The projects include a traveling historical exhibit, “Leading the Way: Montana Woman

Suffrage and the Struggle for Equal Citizenship,” which will be displayed in more than 30 communities statewide.

For more information or to schedule a lecture, email Jabour at anya.jabour@umontana.edu.

###

Contact: Anya Jabour, UM professor of history and women’s and gender studies, 406-243-4364, anya.jabour@umontana.edu.



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UM's Political Science Honor Society Named Best Chapter

August 26, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana's Epsilon Mu chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, recently received a Best Chapter Award.

The award recognizes chapters that are particularly active on their campuses and communities, and that exhibit high levels of energy and creativity in furthering the goals of the honor society. Of nearly 800 Pi Sigma Alpha chapters, only a dozen were recognized with the Best Chapter Award.

Political science Professor Christopher Muste serves as faculty adviser to the UM chapter, which has welcomed about 30 new student members each year for the past three years.

"Our Pi Sigma Alpha students are passionate about political science and politics, and it shows in their involvement in the classroom and in the larger community," Muste said. "They have created and organized innovative programs, such as presenting outstanding guest speakers to the community, providing students with informative panels about graduate school options, and effectively recruiting new members to build on the strengths of the chapter for the future."

###

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Mansfield Conference to Examine Successes, Challenges of Wilderness at 50

August 26, 2014

MISSOULA – When the U.S. Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964, it created a legal and ethical imperative to preserve wilderness as a public good. Now, 50 years later, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana will host a conference that celebrates the work done to fulfill that imperative and that considers the future challenges and controversies facing wilderness.

The 2014 Fall Mansfield Conference, titled “The Storied Past, the Troubled Future: The Imperative of Wilderness at 50 Years,” will be held Wednesday-Friday, Sept. 10-12, at the University of Montana.

The conference will pay special attention to the key roles Montana and Montanans have played and are playing in pursuing, establishing and realizing the imperative of wilderness. Featured speakers include David James Duncan, Holmes Rolston, Sharman Russell, Doug Scott, Pat Williams and Donald Worster.

All sessions are free and open the public, however RSVPs are requested. To view a complete schedule of

events and to register, visit <http://www.umt.edu/ethics/events/wilderness-conference>.

###

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UM Professor Wins IBM Big Data Faculty Award

August 25, 2014

MISSOULA – Brian Steele, an associate professor in the University of Montana Department of Mathematical Sciences, recently received a 2014 IBM Big Data Faculty Award.

The award, which includes a \$10,000 prize, recognizes Steele's interest in advancing coursework in big data, which is the analysis and study of extremely large data sets.

Over the past two years, UM has launched partnerships with technology companies such as IBM, software giant Symantec and local startups to develop big data curriculum. Big data analysis is an in-demand skill, with application in industries including business, computer science, government and law.

"This award is a recognition of the University's effort to build this big data initiative," Steele said. "I think it's not directed to me so much as a group of individuals across campus."

Steele acknowledges the work of Mathematical Sciences Department Chair Leonid Kalachev, Assistant to the Provost for Special Initiatives and Department of Geosciences Professor Nancy Hinman, and others with the

successful launch of the initiative.

Steele said the award money will be used to help develop big data courses at UM, and the University is working to finalize a four-course big data certificate program.

For more information call Steele at 406-243-5396 or email brian.steele@umontana.edu. More information on UM's Big Data Science Initiative is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/provost/bigdata/>.

###

082514data

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Montana Public Radio Hires Health Reporter as News Director

August 25, 2014

MISSOULA – Eric Whitney, a radio reporter covering health issues for National Public Radio and Kaiser Health News, will join Montana Public Radio as news director on Monday, Sept. 1. Whitney replaces Sally Mauk, who retired in May.

MTPR General Manager William Marcus said the station's search committee was pleased with the number of highly qualified applicants for the nationally advertised position and that Whitney stood out.

"Eric has spent most of his 20-year public radio career reporting from and about the west," Marcus said. "He's a proven professional, and I'm confident he will carry on MTPR's strong tradition of excellence in public radio journalism."

Before his freelance work for NPR and Kaiser Health News, Whitney reported for Colorado Public Radio and started the News Department at public station KRCC in Colorado Springs. He also served as assistant news director for High Plains News in Billings.

Whitney says he looks forward to his move back to Montana. "I'm really excited about becoming part of Montana Public Radio and look forward to joining the dialogue around the issues that matter to our listeners," he said.

MTPR serves western and north-central Montana from studios at the University of Montana in Missoula. Program, tune-in and streaming information is available at <http://mtpur.org>.

###

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UM School of Art Faculty Exhibit Opens on Campus

August 21, 2014

MISSOULA – The Gallery of Visual Arts and University of Montana School of Art will present the annual School of Art Faculty Exhibition and Lectures Sept. 2-19.

An opening reception will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, in the Gallery of Visual Arts on the first floor of the Social Science Building. Earlier that evening, Valerie Hedquist, UM professor of art history and criticism, will present a lecture titled “Spiritual Comfort and Charitable Healing in Ter Brugghen’s Saint Sebastian Tended by Irene.” It will be held from 5:10 to 6 p.m. in Social Science Building Room 356.

Annually, the Gallery of Visual Arts starts the new academic year with an exhibition of the current School of Art faculty as a way to introduce their work to students, the University and the community. A wide range of expression and media will be presented, including ceramics, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

Included in this year’s exhibition are faculty members Brad Allen, James Bailey, Kevin Bell, Mary Ann Bonjorni, H. Rafael Chacón, Jason Clark, Jennifer Combe, Elizabeth Dove, Julia Galloway, Matt Hamon, Trey Hill,

Steven Krutek, Beth Lo, Elena Lourenco and Cathryn Mallory.

Rafael Chacón, professor of art history and criticism, will cap the exhibition with a lecture titled “The Transformation of Daphne: A Modernist Architect’s Life” from 5:10 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, in Social Science Building Room 356.

All events are free and open to the public. The Gallery of Visual Arts is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and by appointment on Monday.

For more information call Mallory at 406-243-2813 or email gallery.visarts@umontana.edu. Information about the Gallery of Visual Arts is available at <http://www.umt.edu/art>.

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New Study Reveals More Growth in Montana Craft Beer Industry

August 20, 2014

MISSOULA – Montana’s craft brewing industry is experiencing rapid growth, according to an economic impact study conducted by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana.

Between 2010 and 2013, craft beer production in Montana increased by 49 percent, sales increased by 55 percent and employment more than doubled from 231 to 486 jobs, according to Colin Sorenson, a BBER research economist who conducted the study.

“Those jobs and income flows also contribute to other economic growth throughout the state,” Sorenson said. “Most of the jobs are concentrated in the manufacturing sector, but when you take into account the spending of workers employed by breweries, and vendor purchases made by breweries, we see additional jobs in sectors such as construction, state and local government and retail trade.”

Including impacts in other sectors, the study found that Montana’s brewing operations result in a total of 673 permanent year-round jobs, \$18 million in income to Montana households and \$60 million in sales. The study was commissioned by the Montana Brewers Association.

"It's satisfying to see this growth in jobs and sales," said Tony Herbert, executive director of the Montana Brewers Association. "The numbers also show the impact of people buying locally made products. If we weren't making beer in Montana, and if our customers weren't buying Montana beer, a lot of those dollars would be leaving the state."

To read the full report, visit <http://bber.umt.edu/pubs/Econ/MtBrewers.pdf>.

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

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UM News

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UM Launches Freshman Wilderness Experience Program for New Students

August 18, 2014

MISSOULA –The Wilderness Institute and Outdoor Program at the University of Montana launched a new Freshman Wilderness Experience Program on Aug. 16.

Seventy freshmen arrived from all over the country to participate in the new wilderness-based program. Students spend four days in various wilderness areas throughout western Montana, either backpacking or rafting. Areas include the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness, the Mission Mountains Wilderness, the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Yellowstone River. One trip is in partnership with the Montana Wilderness Association and gives students the opportunity to participate in a Continental Divide Trail service project. UM



students are leading all the trips.

“Watching students come to UM and immediately integrate with each other to work toward a common goal of launching an expedition illustrates the necessity for these programs at our University,” said Rachel James, assistant director at UM’s Wilderness Institute.

“We are laying the groundwork for a fantastic program that can be fully supported by the whole University community in the future,” said Elizabeth Fricke, Outdoor Program manager.

In order to keep participation costs low for students, the College of Forestry and Conservation has supported the program this year, but funding for the program’s future is uncertain.

Wilderness Institute Director Natalie Dawson hopes this program not only fosters a strong community of learning across UM, but also supports the University’s continuing efforts to increase recruitment and retention through student connections with one another, mentorships with older students and a strong sense of place that can be developed by spending time in the landscapes surrounding Missoula.

“This program allows th

e opportunity for new UM students to experience the wild landscapes that attracted many of them to this place,” Dawson said. “For a few days before they begin their University education, they are free to roam.”

Students will return from their wilderness trips on Wednesday, Aug. 20, for a final celebration dinner and storytelling event. The faculty and staff supporting the program are excited to watch it grow and make it available to even more students in the future.

More information and itinerary details are online at <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wi/fwe/>. To learn more call 406-243-5361 or email wi@cfc.umt.edu.

###

Photo cutline: UM students howl with excitement on Trilobite Ridge in the Bob Marshall Wilderness as part of their Freshman Wilderness Experience.

Contact: Natalie Dawson, UM Wilderness Institute director, 406-552-5550, natalie.dawson@umontana.edu; Rachel James, UM Wilderness Institute assistant director, 406-317-2678, rachel.james@umontana.edu; Elizabeth Fricke, UM Outdoor Program director, 406-396-5108, elizabeth.fricke@umontana.edu.

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UM News

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UM Makes Changes to Free Blue Mountain Observatory Public Nights

August 18, 2014

MISSOULA – The growing popularity of Blue Mountain Observatory open house nights has prompted the University of Montana to implement some changes. The next public nights are scheduled for Friday, Aug. 22, and Friday, Sept. 19.

“While we love that so many are excited about exploring our beautiful universe, we are going to experiment with some changes that we hope will help us keep the experience a memorable one for all,” said Diane Friend with the UM Department of Physics and Astronomy, who helps organize the public viewings.

The open house nights will remain free and open to everyone, but UM hopes to limit the number of people coming up on any given night. Attendees are asked to reserve a free ticket for each person in their group via Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-mountain-observatory-open-house-tickets-12579809549>.

People can donate to the observatory for repairs and staffing during open houses by visiting the UM Foundation donation page at <http://cas.umt.edu/physics/Donate.php>.

“We will also be stationing a parking attendant at the lookout to direct parking and answer questions,” Friend said. “We hope that this will help mitigate the congestion that many have experienced lately. We encourage guests to carpool whenever possible.”

Lastly, to insure the open house nights remain safe and pleasurable for all, no alcohol is allowed.

“Thanks for your patience as we learn to adapt to our growing popularity,” Friend said. “We look forward to seeing you on the mountain.”

For more information visit http://cas.umt.edu/physics/Blue_Mountain_Observatory/default.php. Viewing nights will be canceled if the sky is cloudy or thunderstorms threaten. Call 406-243-4299 for weather and cancellation updates.

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ASUM Neighborhood Ambassadors Welcome U-District Renters

August 15, 2014

MISSOULA – This fall, a student-led Neighborhood Ambassador Program will welcome University District student renters into their new neighborhood. The ambassador program, a part of the Associated Students of University of Montana, together with University District volunteers, will deliver 100 welcome bags to student-rented residences located in the University District neighborhood.

The bags contain important information for student renters, including information on renter rights and responsibilities, introductory door hangers to leave on their neighbors' doors, Missoula City ordinances that pertain to their neighborhood, a "smart party" guide, and more.

"The welcome bags offer an opportunity for permanent residents to welcome UM students into the University District community, with the aim to start the academic year off on the right foot," said Katherine Brady, ASUM program coordinator. "The goal of the new program is to help students realize that they are becoming a member of a community where people respect their neighbors and take pride in where they live."

Brady said, similar programs throughout the country have had success in fostering positive university and

neighborhood relations.

“The program encourages residents to bridge the gap between student renters and permanent residents from the get-go, and we are hoping that this will contribute to an improved quality of life for all residents,” she said.

UM faculty and staff members residing in the area are encouraged to participate in the bag distribution efforts. Welcome bags will be delivered to students Aug. 22-24. For more information call Brady at 406-243-2017 or email katherine.brady@mso.umt.edu.

###

Contact: Katherine Brady, ASUM Program Coordinator, 406-243-2017, katherine.brady@mso.umt.edu.



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Symantec Executives Visit UM to Observe Big Data Course

August 15, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana is the first university in the nation to be part of software giant Symantec's Academic Alliances Program. Executives from the company will visit campus Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 18-19, to meet with UM officials and observe the inaugural partnership in action.

Earlier this spring, Symantec made a \$100,000 in-kind donation to UM that included a server, software, data and support for a two-week, big data-focused summer course. Business, computer science and law students are taking the course, which covers the process and law surrounding electronic discovery.

The course, titled eDiscovery Law and Practice, teaches students to search massive sets of data for evidence and decide how to proceed with findings based on both law and business practices.

UM Professor and IT legal adviser Joel Henry teaches the course and is at the helm of the partnership. He is giving UM students hands-on experience exploring a common use for big data and Symantec's software Clearwell.

Symantec is looking to Henry and his students for feedback, since UM will serve as the company's pilot for its new alliance program, which aims to help other universities equip students with real-world skills and experience by offering products and technology curriculum.

"This incredible donation by Symantec allows the University of Montana to offer a unique course in the data science area," Henry said. "The Clearwell software allows the business and computer science students to learn and work with one of the premier tools in the area of data science. The law students gain experience with the legal and technical challenges of big data. This truly is a one-of-a-kind experience for our students."

The in-kind donation came to UM after Symantec learned of UM's Cyber Innovation Laboratory, which is designed to train students in cybersecurity and to search for patterns that solve real-world problems using massive datasets.

"UM is both elated and honored to be the first University in the U.S. to offer a course through the Symantec Academic Alliances Program," said UM Provost Perry Brown. "The efforts of Symantec and Dr. Joel Henry, who is one of a handful of people in the country with doctoral-level expertise in both computer science and law, turned an idea and an opportunity, into a reality."

Symantec's donation is the first major addition to UM's Data Science Initiative, which is designed to train students to become effective programmers, developers and analysts.

"We can't thank Symantec enough for extending this opportunity to our students," Brown said. "UM looks forward to additional opportunities to provide hands-on training to our students."

For more information call Henry at 406-243-2218 or email joel.henry@umontana.edu.

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MontanaPBS to Broadcast New HD Version of Michael Sample Scenic Documentary

August 14, 2014

MISSOULA – The photography and commentary of late Billings photographer and philanthropist Michael Sample is featured in a documentary to be broadcast by MontanaPBS at 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17. The broadcast is the premiere of a high-definition transfer of the film.

“Montana On My Mind” is a stunning portrait of Montana, combining film, photographs, inspiring quotes and on-camera musings by Sample into a celebration of Montana’s unique beauty and spirit. The film was inspired by the photography book of the same name published by Sample in 1987.

The broadcast is a tribute to Sample, who died of stab wounds following an attack at his Billings studio in June. His alleged assailant awaits trial.

MontanaPBS is a collaborative service of KUSM-TV at Montana State University in Bozeman and KUFM-TV at the University of Montana in Missoula. Check local listings for channel.

###

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Dogs Used to Sniff Out Invasive Mustard on Mount Sentinel

August 14, 2014

MISSOULA – Dyer’s woad is an invasive plant found in five Montana locations. It infests vast tracts of land in Idaho and Utah, and Montana land managers work hard at early detection and rapid response to prevent widespread infestations here.

“We don’t want this to become the next spotted knapweed,” said Marilyn Marler, University of Montana natural areas specialist.

One of the Montana infestations is on UM’s Mount Sentinel, and the University has worked to eradicate the weedy mustard for almost two decades.

“There are few enough plants on Mount Sentinel that our control efforts are limited by our ability to find the darn things,” Marler said. “They are spread out, and they hide in and among shrubs on the hillside.”

That’s where Working Dogs for Conservation comes in. Based in Montana and founded in 2000 by four biologists, this nonprofit organization selects, trains and partners with high-energy dogs – many rescued from

shelters – to seek targets of high conservation value. These include feces of rare wildlife, imperiled plants and invasive insects. The dyer's woad project is in its fourth year on Mount Sentinel.

In 2011 and 2012, 500 plants were found, Marler said. That decreased to 113 plants last year and so far only 19 plants this summer.

"It's working really well," Marler said. "For several years, we ran the dog-handler teams as a comparison to a person searching by themselves. It turned out that the person without a search dog was consistently missing about 40 percent of the plants. So now we just use the dogs because they are much more accurate."

UM will continue the program until dyer's woad is eradicated from the mountain in compliance with Montana Dyer's Woad Management Plan, which is an interagency effort to prevent the spread of the plant in Montana. Marler said it takes eight weed-free years to be declared eradicated. "We are getting closer every year," said Marler.

The Mount Sentinel work is funded by the Missoula County Weed District, the City of Missoula, the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund, UM and the Pleaides Foundation of Missoula. To support weed management and native plant restoration on Mount Sentinel, donations of any amount can be sent to UM Natural Areas Restoration, UM Foundation, Brantly Hall, University of Montana, Missoula MT 59812.

For more information visit <http://cas.umt.edu/umnaturalareas>.

###

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Nonresident Travel Spending Contributes to NE Montana Counties and Travel Regions

August 14, 2014

MISSOULA – An analysis recently completed by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana highlights the economic contribution of nonresident travel spending to each of the six travel regions in Montana, as well as 18 of the state's 56 counties.

Estimates of the economic contribution of traveler spending at the statewide level showed that 11.02 million visitors spent approximately \$3.62 billion in 2013, which directly supported \$2.8 billion of economic activity and over 33,000 Montana jobs.

Nonresident travelers indirectly support an additional \$1.6 billion of economic activity and 14,600 jobs. Associated with those travel-related jobs is \$979 million in labor income directly attributable to nonresident travel and another \$525 million indirectly attributable to nonresident spending.

Focusing on the \$105 million spent by nonresident travelers in the northeastern part of the state, \$63 million of

economic activity and 830 jobs are directly supported in Missouri River Country Travel Region. An additional \$22 million of economic activity and 200 jobs are indirectly supported. A total of \$24 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional \$7 million indirectly supported by traveler spending.

Richland County, located within Missouri River Country, also was included in the analysis. A total of \$32 million of economic activity in Richland County was directly supported by the \$56 million spent in the county, with an additional \$9 million supported indirectly. Spending in the county directly supported 390 jobs and nearly \$14 million in labor income, with an additional 90 jobs and \$3 million in labor income being indirectly supported.

The full report, including estimates of the economic contribution of nonresident traveler spending in the other five Montana travel regions, as well as additional county-level estimates, is available online at

<http://www.itrr.umt.edu/>.

###

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Nonresident Travel Spending Contributes to SE Montana Counties and Travel Regions

August 14, 2014

MISSOULA – An analysis recently completed by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana highlights the economic contribution of nonresident travel spending to each of the six travel regions in Montana, as well as 18 of the state's 56 counties.

Estimates of the economic contribution of traveler spending at the statewide level showed that 11.02 million visitors spent approximately \$3.62 billion in 2013, which directly supported \$2.8 billion of economic activity and more than 33,000 Montana jobs.

Nonresident travelers indirectly support an additional \$1.6 billion of economic activity and 14,600 jobs. Associated with those travel-related jobs is \$979 million in labor income directly attributable to nonresident travel and another \$525 million indirectly attributable to nonresident spending.

Focusing on the \$574 million spent by nonresident travelers in the southeastern part of the state, nearly \$464 million of economic activity and nearly 5,000 jobs are directly supported in the southeast Montana travel region. An additional \$228 million of economic activity and 2,080 jobs are indirectly supported. A total of \$147 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional \$79 million indirectly supported by traveler spending.

Custer, Dawson and Yellowstone Counties, each located within southeast Montana, also each were included in the analysis. Sixty-one million dollars of economic activity in Custer County was directly supported by the \$97 million spent in the county, with an additional \$26 million supported indirectly. Spending in the county directly supported 800 jobs and almost \$21 million in labor income, with an additional 260 jobs and \$8 million in labor income being indirectly supported.

Nonresidents spent \$44 million in Dawson County, thereby directly supporting over \$26 million of economic activity, 310 jobs and nearly \$10 million in labor income. Indirectly supported were an additional \$9 million of economic activity, 90 jobs and nearly \$3 million in labor income.

In Yellowstone County, nearly \$289 million of economic activity was directly supported by almost \$374 million of nonresident traveler spending. This spending contributed to 3,400 jobs and the associated \$97 million in labor income in the county. Indirectly supported in Yellowstone County were an additional \$158 million of economic activity, 1,450 jobs and \$57 million in labor income.

The full report, including estimates of the economic contribution of nonresident traveler spending in the other five Montana travel regions, as well as additional county-level estimates, is available online at <http://www.itrr.umt.edu/>.

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Nonresident Travel Spending Contributes to South Central Montana Counties and Travel Regions

August 14, 2014

MISSOULA – An analysis recently completed by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana highlights the economic contribution of nonresident travel spending to each of the six travel regions in Montana, as well as 18 of the state's 56 counties.

Estimates of the economic contribution of traveler spending at the statewide level showed that 11.02 million visitors spent approximately \$3.62 billion in 2013, which directly supported \$2.8 billion of economic activity and more than 33,000 Montana jobs.

Nonresident travelers indirectly support an additional \$1.6 billion of economic activity and 14,600 jobs. Associated with those travel-related jobs is \$979 million in labor income directly attributable to nonresident travel and another \$525 million indirectly attributable to nonresident spending.

Focusing on the \$1.01 billion spent by nonresident travelers in the south central part of the state, \$717 million of economic activity and 9,680 jobs are directly supported in Yellowstone Country Travel Region. An additional \$404 million of economic activity and 3,730 jobs are indirectly supported. \$281 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional \$129 million indirectly supported by traveler spending.

Carbon, Gallatin, Park, and Stillwater Counties, each located within Yellowstone Country, also each were included in the analysis. A total of \$49 million of economic activity in Carbon County was directly supported by the \$73 million spent in the county, with an additional \$18 million supported indirectly. Spending in the county directly supported 740 jobs and nearly \$18 million in labor income, with an additional 180 jobs and more than \$4 million in labor income being indirectly supported.

Nonresidents spent \$667 million in Gallatin County, thereby directly supporting more than \$477 million of economic activity, 6,490 jobs and more than \$194 million in labor income. Indirectly supported were an additional \$272 million of economic activity, 2,490 jobs and \$91 million in labor income.

In Park County, \$142 million of economic activity was directly supported by \$203 million of nonresident traveler spending. This spending contributed to 2,060 jobs and the associated \$53 million in labor income in the county. Indirectly supported in Park County were an additional \$53 million of economic activity, 580 jobs and more than \$15 million in labor income.

Nonresident visitors to Stillwater County spent more than \$52 million, which directly supported nearly \$30 million of economic activity, 370 jobs and \$11 million in labor income. Indirectly supported were an additional \$7 million of economic activity, 70 jobs and almost \$2 million in labor income.

The full report, including estimates of the economic contribution of nonresident traveler spending in the other five Montana travel regions, as well as additional county-level estimates, is available online at <http://www.itrr.umt.edu/>.

###

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Nonresident Travel Spending Contributes to Central Montana Counties and Travel Regions

August 14, 2014

MISSOULA – An analysis recently completed by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana highlights the economic contribution of nonresident travel spending to each of the six travel regions in Montana, as well as 18 of the state's 56 counties.

Estimates of the economic contribution of traveler spending at the statewide level showed that 11.02 million visitors spent approximately \$3.62 billion in 2013, which directly supported \$2.8 billion of economic activity and more than 33,000 Montana jobs.

Nonresident travelers indirectly support an additional \$1.6 billion of economic activity and 14,600 jobs. Associated with those travel-related jobs is \$979 million in labor income directly attributable to nonresident travel and another \$525 million indirectly attributable to nonresident spending.

Focusing on the \$402 million spent by nonresident travelers in the central part of the state, nearly \$298 million of economic activity and 3,500 jobs are directly supported in central Montana travel region. An additional \$136 million of economic activity and 1,190 jobs are indirectly supported. More than \$94 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional \$45 million indirectly supported by traveler spending.

Cascade County and **Toole County**, located within central Montana, also each were included in the analysis. A total of \$175 million of economic activity in Cascade County was directly supported by the \$248 million spent in the county, with an additional \$92 million supported indirectly. Nonresident spending in the county directly supported 2,240 jobs and more than \$60 million in labor income, with an additional 810 jobs and \$32 million in labor income being indirectly supported.

In Toole County, almost \$39 million of economic activity was directly supported by \$62 million of nonresident traveler spending. This spending contributed to 420 jobs and the associated \$16 million in labor income in the county. Indirectly supported in Toole County were an additional \$9 million of economic activity, 80 jobs and nearly \$3 million in labor income.

The full report, including estimates of the economic contribution of nonresident traveler spending in the other five Montana travel regions, as well as additional county-level estimates, is available online at <http://www.itrr.umt.edu/>.

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Nonresident Travel Spending Contributes to SW Montana Counties and Travel Regions

August 14, 2014

MISSOULA – An analysis recently completed by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana highlights the economic contribution of nonresident travel spending to each of the six travel regions in Montana, as well as 18 of the state's 56 counties.

Estimates of the economic contribution of traveler spending at the statewide level showed that 11.02 million visitors spent approximately \$3.62 billion in 2013, which directly supported \$2.8 billion of economic activity and more than 33,000 Montana jobs.

Nonresident travelers indirectly support an additional \$1.6 billion of economic activity and 14,600 jobs. Associated with those travel-related jobs is \$979 million in labor income directly attributable to nonresident travel and another \$525 million indirectly attributable to nonresident spending.

Focusing on the \$399 million spent by nonresident travelers in the southwestern part of the state, \$263 million

of economic activity and 3,280 jobs are directly supported in the southwest Montana travel region. An additional \$141 million of economic activity and 1,300 jobs are indirectly supported. A total of \$112 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional \$47 million indirectly supported by traveler spending.

Beaverhead, Lewis and Clark, Madison and Silver Bow Counties, each located within southwest Montana travel region, also each were included in the analysis. Nearly \$45 million of economic activity in Beaverhead County directly was supported by the \$86 million spent in the county, with an additional \$14 million supported indirectly. Nearly 600 jobs and \$14 million in labor income were directly supported by the spending in the county, with an additional 150 jobs and nearly \$4 million in labor income being indirectly supported.

Nonresidents spent \$98 million in Lewis and Clark County, thereby directly supporting nearly \$69 million of economic activity, 1,040 jobs and more than \$27 million in labor income. Indirectly supported were an additional \$35 million of economic activity, 330 jobs and \$12 million in labor income.

In Madison County, almost \$39 million of economic activity was directly supported by \$63 million of nonresident traveler spending. This spending contributed to 480 jobs and the associated \$18 million in labor income in the county. Indirectly supported in Madison County were an additional \$13 million of economic activity, 120 jobs and more than \$3 million in labor income.

Nonresident visitors to Silver Bow County spent nearly \$113, which directly supported \$75 million of economic activity, 840 jobs and \$32 in labor income. Indirectly supported were an additional \$38 million of economic activity, 340 jobs and nearly \$14 million in labor income.

The full report, including estimates of the economic contribution of nonresident traveler spending in the other five Montana travel regions, as well as additional county-level estimates, is available online at <http://www.itrr.umt.edu/>.

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Nonresident Travel Spending Contributes to NW Montana Counties and Travel Regions

August 14, 2014

MISSOULA – An analysis recently completed by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana highlights the economic contribution of nonresident travel spending to each of the six travel regions in Montana, as well as 18 of the state's 56 counties.

Estimates of the economic contribution of traveler spending at the statewide level showed that 11.02 million visitors spent approximately \$3.62 billion in 2013, which directly supported \$2.8 billion of economic activity and more than 33,000 Montana jobs.

Nonresident travelers indirectly support an additional \$1.6 billion of economic activity and 14,600 jobs. Associated with those travel-related jobs are \$979 million in labor income directly attributable to nonresident travel and another \$525 million indirectly attributable to nonresident spending.

Focusing on the \$970 million spent by nonresident travelers in the northwestern part of the state, \$662 million

of economic activity and 9,500 jobs are directly supported in the Glacier Country Travel Region. An additional \$422 million of economic activity and 4,000 jobs are indirectly supported. A total of \$260 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional \$93 million indirectly supported by traveler spending.

Flathead, Glacier, Lincoln and Missoula Counties, each located within Glacier Country, also were each included in the analysis. In Flathead County, \$342 million of economic activity was directly supported by the \$518 million spent in the county, with an additional \$211 million supported indirectly. Nearly \$143 million in labor income and 5,000 jobs were directly supported by the spending in the county, with an additional 2,000 jobs and \$68 million in labor income being indirectly supported.

Nonresidents spent \$77 million in Glacier County, thereby directly supporting nearly \$59 million of economic activity, 860 jobs and \$23 million in labor income. Indirectly supported were an additional \$16 million of economic activity, 180 jobs and \$4 million in labor income.

Spending by nonresidents in Lincoln County totaled \$61 million, contributing to \$33 million of economic activity. A total of 470 jobs and \$13 million in associated earnings were directly supported by this spending. Indirectly, \$12 million of economic activity, 120 jobs and \$3 million in labor income were also supported.

In Missoula County, \$162 million of economic activity was directly supported by \$236 million of nonresident traveler spending. This spending contributed to more than 2,200 jobs and the associated \$63 million in labor income in the county. Indirectly supported in Missoula County were an additional \$105 million of economic activity, 990 jobs and nearly \$37 million in labor income.

The full report, including estimates of the economic contribution of nonresident traveler spending in the other five Montana travel regions, as well as additional county-level estimates, is available online at <http://www.itrr.umt.edu/>.

###

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UM President Kicks Off Academic Year with Address, Missoula College Groundbreaking

August 13, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana President Royce Engstrom will deliver his annual State of the University Address and host the official groundbreaking for the new Missoula College building on Friday, Aug. 22. The public is invited to both events.

During his State of the University Address, which will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Montana Theatre of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center, Engstrom will outline institutional priorities for the coming year and introduce new faculty members and administrators. Coffee will be served preceding the address from 9:30 to 10 a.m. in the PAR/TV Center lobby.

Following the address, buses will be available to take people from the Montana Theatre to the future site of Missoula College on East Broadway. Shuttles will begin departing the mountain campus at 11:30 a.m. from outside the PART/TV Center building on Eddy Ave. The return shuttles will begin at 1 p.m. The buses are

operated by the Associated Students of UM Office of Transportation. Parking will be available at the site.

The MC groundbreaking event will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. at 1205 E. Broadway – the future site of a new Missoula College building.

Speakers include Engstrom, Gov. Steve Bullock, Missoula College Dean Barry Good, Missoula Mayor John Engen, ASUM President Asa Hohman and ASUM Sen. Sarah Smith, and Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian.

A reception with light refreshments will be held following the remarks and the official groundbreaking. Attendees are encouraged to wear flat footwear, as the ground will be uneven and soft.

The Lil' Smokies bluegrass/string band will play before the groundbreaking event begins and during the reception.

###

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American Idol Winner Phillip Phillips to Perform at Adams Center Oct. 23

August 12, 2014

MISSOULA – The Adams Center at the University of Montana will host pop-rock musician Phillip Phillips on Thursday, Oct. 23. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m.

Phillips recently released his sophomore album “Behind The Light.” All the songs on the album were either written or co-written by Phillips, including the lead single “Raging Fire,” an epic and urgent love song that debuted in the Billboard Hot 100 upon its March release and quickly earned raves for Phillips’ stirring vocal delivery and guitar work.

During the past year, the 23-year-old Georgia native has toured the U.S. and the world, joining Matchbox Twenty and John Mayer on tour and sharing a stage with Bruce Springsteen at the 2013 Rock in Rio festival. The “American Idol” season 11 winner recently wrapped up a summer tour with O.A.R.

Tickets for the Oct. 23 show go on sale to the general public at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 15. Tickets are \$40 and \$30, plus applicable ticketing and convenience fees. Tickets are available at all GrizTix outlets, online at <http://www.griztix.com>, and by phone at 406-243-4051 or toll-free at 1-888-MONTANA.

###

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UM Research Improves Temperature Modeling Across Mountainous Landscapes

August 12, 2014

MISSOULA – New research by University of Montana doctoral student Jared Oyler provides improved computer models for estimating temperature across mountainous landscapes.

The work was published Aug. 12 in the International Journal of Climatology in an article titled “Creating a topoclimatic daily air temperature dataset for the conterminous United States using homogenized station data and remotely sensed land skin temperature.”

Collaborating with UM faculty co-authors Ashley Ballantyne, Kelsey Jencso, Michael Sweet and Steve Running, Oyler provided a new climate dataset for ecological and hydrological research and natural resource management.

“I think we have addressed several limitations of existing temperature datasets,” Oyler said.

He used data from weather stations, as well as atmospheric weather model data and satellite-based observations, to come up with daily temperature estimates from 1948 to 2012 for every square kilometer in the contiguous United States.

Many existing datasets generally assume that temperatures are cooler at higher elevations. However, inversions often cause the reverse. For example, on a calm winter day or summer night in Missoula, the air may be warmer on Mount Sentinel than in the valley. Oyler's dataset addresses the oddities of inversions by combining weather station data with fine scale satellite-based observations of the land surface.

Accurate, spatially based estimates of historical air temperature within mountainous areas are critical as scientists and land managers look at temperature-driven changes to vegetation, wildlife habitat, wildfire and snowpack.

Additionally, the dataset is the first fine-scale work to correct for artificial trends within weather station data caused by changes in equipment or weather station locations. It also is the first to provide direct estimates of uncertainty and to provide open-source code.

"As an open-source dataset, researchers can easily access and use the data and understand its strengths and limitations and improve it themselves," Oyler said.

The research was funded by the U.S. Geological Survey North Central Climate Science Center and the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

###

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Remodel of Popular M Trailhead on Mount Sentinel Begins

August 08, 2014

MISSOULA – Mount Sentinel’s M trailhead at the University of Montana will be remodeled in the coming weeks to improve access to one of the state’s most popular hiking trails.

UM Natural Areas Specialist Marilyn Marler says demolition of the existing trailhead could begin as early as Friday, Aug. 8, and construction of the new trailhead will take about two weeks. The trail to the M is open during construction and the public can walk around the work zone to reach the trail at the top of the stairs.



The new design aims to facilitate better traffic flow and access at the trailhead and also will feature space to post information relevant to hikers. There also will be an area for donor recognition.

The project is funded by donations from local organizations, businesses and individuals. Run Wild Missoula, Missoula's running club, is the lead donor on the remodel with a \$16,000 cash donation. Montana Native Landscapes and WGM Group made significant in-kind donations and about a dozen local individuals and businesses made cash donations as well.

The project is still accepting donations, which can be made online at <http://www.mtrail.org> or by calling Marler at 406-544-7189. Those who donate \$500 or more will receive an engraved capstone at the new trailhead.



###

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UM Study Examines Why Montana Has Low Seat Belt Usage

August 08, 2014

MISSOULA – In a car that crashes while traveling at 35 mph, an unrestrained rear-seat passenger can cause as much damage to the driver as a fall from a height of 40 feet onto a hard surface. This is one of the dangers of not using a seat belt that often is overlooked, according to a paper recently released by Montana KIDS COUNT at the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana.

The paper, “Seat Belts: Saving Lives on Montana Roads,” explores traffic fatalities associated with not being buckled while riding in a car, with particular focus on keeping children safe.

“According to the Montana Highway Patrol, not using a seat belt was a factor in 186 of the 244 deaths that occurred on Montana roads in 2013,” said Daphne Herling, former director of Montana KIDS COUNT and the report’s author. “Our state has a seat belt usage rate that has hovered between 77 and 80 percent for years. That’s lower than all our neighboring states, and we have not seen the same rate of improvement as North and South Dakota, Idaho and Wyoming.”

The Montana KIDS COUNT paper examines some of the reasons behind the choice to not wear a seat belt.

“Some of those reasons are based on mistaken beliefs that people hold regarding seat belt use,” according to Thale Dillon, current director of Montana KIDS COUNT. “Others are downright foolish. My personal favorite is of those who say they’d rather be thrown clear in a crash. In fact, being ejected from a vehicle is one of the most serious events that can happen during a crash, with over three-quarters of ejected vehicle occupants being killed.”

Montana roads are more deadly than roads in most other states, giving our state the dubious distinction of having the highest rate of traffic deaths per miles traveled in the country in 2011, Dillon said. The factors that contribute to generating this rate are well-documented and include impaired driving, driving on rural roads, driving at high speeds, inexperience and distracted driving. In 2011, 44 percent of Montana traffic fatalities were alcohol-related, another rate that is the highest in the country, she said.

Of all the things that can be done to reduce the number of deaths that occur on our state’s roads, the simplest and cheapest is to use a seat belt while traveling in a motor vehicle, according to the paper. Montana currently only has a secondary seat belt law, meaning that law enforcement personnel cannot make a traffic stop based solely on the failure to wear a seat belt. Additionally, the penalty for failure to wear a seat belt is a negligible \$20. The penalty does not count as a misdemeanor or as a moving violation and is not counted against a driver’s record. The penalty for failure to use a child safety restraint is a fine of no more than \$100.

“It is well-documented that upgrading seat belt laws from secondary to primary enforcement increases seat belt use and, as a consequence, reduces traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries,” Herling said. “Efforts to enact a primary seat belt law in Montana have been in place in every legislative session since 2003. While we have primary enforcement laws for child restraints for children under age 6 and less than 60 lbs, the Montana Department of Transportation has identified the need to change the existing law to increase the height and weight requirements for child passenger safety.”

The paper, “Seat Belts: Saving Lives on Montana Roads,” is available online at <http://www.montanakidscount.com/>.

###

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Princeton Review Names UM Among 'The Best 379 Colleges'

August 08, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana recently was named one of the top four-year colleges and universities in North America by the annual Princeton Review ranking.

"The Best 379 Colleges: 2015 Edition" was released Aug. 4. The rankings are based on surveys of 130,000 students. The 80-question survey asked students about academics, administration, campus life and the student body.

UM students surveyed by the Princeton Review said they appreciate the University's focus on "environmental sustainability and social justice" along with the fact that UM strives to develop "creative thinkers and engaged citizens."

Annually published since 1992, "The Best 379 Colleges" includes detailed profiles of each school and ratings in a variety of areas, such as academics, quality of life and financial aid. No school has ever paid a fee to be profiled in the book.

To read more about how UM ranked, visit <http://www.princetonreview.com/TheUniversityofMontana.aspx>.

###

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UM's J-School Names Spring 2015 Pollner Professor

August 07, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Journalism has chosen editor and media design consultant Ron Reason for the spring 2015 T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professorship.

UM J-school Dean Larry Abramson announced the selection, saying that a committee of faculty and former Pollner professors agreed on the choice after a rigorous vetting process.

Principal of his self-titled consulting company, Reason has helped newspapers and magazines worldwide improve their design strategies. He has 25 years of experience working with publishers from Dubai to Chicago as they aim to build a distinctive brand in the digital age.

Before he opened his own consulting firm, Reason was on the faculty of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, a media think tank and training program in St. Petersburg, Fla. Before that, Reason spent 10 years in various editing, design and photography roles at the St. Petersburg (now Tampa Bay) Times.

Reason will serve as the inaugural faculty member for the spring professorship, ushering in an expansion of the

14-year-old T. Anthony Pollner Professorship, which has grown from a fall professorship with writing and reporting as its focus to a spring professorship with visual storytelling and online journalism as its focus.

"This new program will be a terrific addition for students interested in the role that visuals play in the journalism business," Abramson said. "Reason's recent experience with industry will provide an important link to the tough design decisions that news outlets face today."

Reason will teach a course that examines how media outlets have used design as they adapt to the digital era. Reason also will serve as an adviser to the Montana Kaimin, UM's student-run independent newspaper.

The professorship is named after T. Anthony Pollner, a graduate of the school who died in a motorcycle accident in 2001. Generous support from friends and family of Anthony Pollner has made both professorships possible.

The fall installment of the professorship will bring William Glaberson to campus. The former New York Times reporter will teach a course on covering the courts. Glaberson will deliver the T. Anthony Pollner Lecture at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 29, at the University Center Theater on the UM campus.

###

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Manufacturing in Montana: Economic Update Seminars Reveal Trends Across the State

August 04, 2014

MISSOULA – Manufacturing jobs, earnings and production are increasing across the country. Booming energy production and lower electricity costs are contributing to these rising numbers.

This week, University of Montana economists Patrick Barkey and Paul Polzin will discuss trends in manufacturing and what these trends mean for Montanans during the ninth annual Midyear Economic Update seminar series.

This year's series, "Manufacturing a Greater Montana," is being held in seven cities around the state. Each seminar includes breakfast or lunch. The cost is \$25 for members of the Montana Chamber of Commerce and \$30 for nonmembers. The seminar schedule is:

- **Billings:** 7-8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 5, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Bozeman:** 12-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 5, Holiday Inn

- **Helena:** 8-9:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 6, Holiday Inn
- **Butte:** 12-1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 6, La Quinta
- **Great Falls:** 7-8:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 7, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Missoula:** 12-1:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 7, Doubletree

The event is co-sponsored by the Montana Chamber of Commerce and UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research. For more information, visit <http://www.bber.umt.edu> or call BBER at 406-243-5113.

###

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On Aug. 5 Mount Sentinel Gets New Name: Mount McCartney

August 04, 2014

MISSOULA – It may be “Out There,” but University of Montana President Royce Engstrom will welcome Sir Paul McCartney right here to UM on Tuesday, Aug. 5, by renaming Mount Sentinel for a day.

In honor of the visiting rock icon, UM together with the city of Missoula will proclaim Mount Sentinel and its iconic M be named Mount McCartney for Tuesday.

“We are thrilled to have a legend such as Paul McCartney playing in our community,” Engstrom said. “This concert not only brings folks from around our great state together in Missoula, but also attracts fans from around the country. We think Washington-Grizzly Stadium is a wonderful place to host a concert of this caliber.”

The City of Missoula is also pleased to welcome McCartney and to share the public M.

“It’s exciting to have an artist of this magnitude visit Missoula,” Mayor John Engen said. “We hope he has a good time here, and we know we will enjoy his visit.”

The Missoula concert is a continuation of McCartney's acclaimed Out There tour, which visited 23 cities across South America, Europe, North America and Japan in 2013. The tour will visit 19 U.S. cities, including Missoula, this year.

This will be McCartney's first-ever performance in Missoula.

###

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First Half of 2014 Reveals Continued Improvements for Montana Wood Products Industry

August 01, 2014

MISSOULA – The first half of 2014 was the strongest that Montana’s wood products industry has experienced since 2009, according to a University of Montana researcher.

Todd Morgan, director of forestry industry research at UM’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research, said wages paid to production workers in the first half of 2014 were up 20 percent, the number of production workers was up 3 percent and lumber production increased about 4 percent at Montana sawmills compared to the first half of 20

The continued increases are good to see, Morgan said. Growth in the second quarter was slower but still improved from 2013 and the previous three years.

“Montana wood products results for 2009 and 2010 were the lowest since the end of World War II, and their

recovery has been slow but fairly steady,” Morgan said. “U.S. homebuilding has increased more slowly than predicted for years and is still not back to its long-term average, which has contributed to slow growth in Montana’s wood products industry.”

Montana’s plywood, particleboard and medium-density fiberboard production levels were somewhat lower in the first half of 2014 than for the same period last year, but that was pretty much the case across the country with slower-than-expected housing starts.

According to Morgan, production wages in Montana experienced the most substantial growth. At \$37.4 million for the first six months of 2014, wages were 20 percent higher than the first half of 2013. The number of production workers employed during the first half of 2014 increased to 1,698 – the highest it has been since 2009 – and more than 115 workers higher than the first half of 2011.

Annual lumber production in Montana is up almost 40 percent from the 2009 low, but still well below where it was in 2007 and 2008, Morgan said. About 294 million board feet of lumber was manufactured in Montana during the first half of 2014 compared to 283 million board feet in the first half of 2013 and about 264 million board feet on average for first halves of 2010 through 2012.

“Most mills in Montana are still operating below full capacity and have not yet added additional shifts,” Morgan said. “Log supply continues to be the key issue currently limiting production, as opposed to markets for finished products. Delivered log prices at Montana mills increased about 10 percent from the first to second quarter of 2014 and are about 15 percent higher than in the second quarter of 2013. Production and associated employment and wage increases have been somewhat stronger on the West Coast, with more timber available for harvest and better access to the Asian markets.”

Wage, employment and production numbers refer only to Montana production workers at timber-processing facilities and mills that use wood residue. Production workers account for 40 to 50 percent of the workers in Montana’s forest products industry. Estimates do not include several thousand workers in logging, trucking and other related jobs.

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at UM is a research center producing economic and industry data for Montana. For more information visit <http://www.bber.umt.edu/fir>.

###

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