11-1-2014

November 2014 news releases

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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Three UM Professors Named Fulbright Scholar Awardees

November 26, 2014

MISSOULA – Two University of Montana professors and one associate professor recently were named 2015 Fulbright Scholar Program awardees by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. All three teach in UM’s College of Humanities and Sciences.

Microbiology Professor James Gannon will serve as a Fulbright Scholar in Indonesia from February to July at the University of Mataram City. His project title is “Development of Institutional Capacity to Solve Mining Related Environmental Problems: A Microbial Perspective.”

Department of Chemistry Chair and Professor Christopher Palmer will conduct research in Brazil from January through May. He will be based at the University of Sao Paulo in Sao Carlos. His project is titled “Nanoparticle Sorbents to Improve Performance of Solid Phase Extraction Systems.”

Geosciences Associate Professor Andrew Wilcox will lecture and conduct research in Chile from March through June. His project, “Enhancing Graduate Education in River Processes and Investigating Disturbance and Channel Response in Chilean Mountain Rivers,” will take place at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in
Santiago.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

Approximately 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals will travel abroad in 2014-2015 as part of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program is administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, a division of the Institute of International Education.

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**Contact:** Sarah Halvorson, UM Fulbright Core Scholars Program representative, 406-243-2793, sarah.halvorson@umontana.edu.
‘Irish Christmas in Montana’ Concerts Set for Dec. 6-7 at UM

November 25, 2014

MISSOULA – “An Irish Christmas in Montana,” a concert featuring the collaboration between the Irish of Montana and Ireland that celebrates the tradition, music, song and dance associated with Christmas, will take the stage at the University of Montana in December.

The first performance is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, in UM’s Music Recital Hall, and another performance will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the same location.

While acts from Ireland performed Irish Christmas concerts at UM in recent years, this year’s concert will feature UM students and other Montanans celebrating their Irish heritage. The setting is a traditional Irish cottage, with neighbors coming and going, sharing good tidings and singing and dancing to their hearts’ content.

“There is a growing desire among Irish students in Montana to play a more active role in their culture,” UM Irish Studies Program Director Traolach O’Riordain said. “Many of these students are of Irish heritage but claim that the culture was not passed down to them. Learning the Irish language, dancing, singing and putting on this...
concert is their way of taking back the inheritance that is rightfully theirs. The concert is more than just a show of festive celebration; it’s a strong cultural statement about the revival of Irish culture in Montana.”

Tickets cost $20 per family (whether you have two or 20 kids), $15 for general admission, $10 for seniors and Friends of Irish Studies members, and $5 for students. Tickets can be purchased online at http://www.friendsofirishstudies.com/ or at the door. All proceeds benefit UM’s Irish Studies Program. The concert is sponsored by The Friends of Irish Studies in the West, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, LMG Security, and Ireland Tile and Marble.

For more information call O’Riordain at 406-544-0311 or email traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu or friendsofirishstudies@gmail.com.

###

**Contact:** Traolach O’Riordain, director, UM Irish Studies Program, 406-544-0311, traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu.
Coral Reef Research Earns UM Professor AAAS Fellow Distinction

November 25, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana geosciences Professor George Stanley, who directs the UM Paleontology Center, has been named a Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Stanley was awarded the distinction for his work in paleobiology of invertebrates, especially the evolution of reef forms. His research has clarified the evolution of reefs and of modern coral lineages.

“I was, of course, delighted to hear that my research efforts are recognized,” Stanley said. “I am already a Fellow of some geological and biological organizations, but when I was told it was the top science organization honor, I was even more delighted.”

AAAS selected Stanley and 400 other members of the association to be elevated to the rank of Fellow this year. They will be presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue (representing science and engineering) rosette pin on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the 2015 AAAS Annual Meeting in San Jose, Calif. Stanley plans to attend the meeting.
This year’s AAAS Fellows will be formally announced in the AAAS News and Notes section of the prestigious journal Science on Friday, Nov. 28.

Stanley has studied the evolution of reefs around the world, beginning in Jamaica as a doctoral student at the University of Kansas. He spent a whole summer there diving on spectacular reefs, which now are mostly gone.

“It was thrilling and helped me to better prepare for future research on fossil counterparts,” Stanley said.

Since then, he has studied modern reefs in Australia, Japan, Belize, Tahiti and the Florida Keys. He spent a semester as a UM exchange scholar in Belize studying the second largest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere and led UM courses there for many years.

His research at UM, with the collaboration of UM students and international specialists, has focused on the paleoecology, evolution and extinction of reefs going back 250 million years. Stanley’s current research focuses on the mass extinctions of ancient reefs and the nature of their demise and recovery in the aftermath of global changes that killed 70 to 90 percent of species on Earth.

He carried out that research by studying fossil reefs in Alaska, western Canada, Montana, the Alps of Austria, Poland, Japan and western Australia.

Last year, Stanley was a short-term Fellow with the Japanese Society for Promotion of Science, studying Japan’s coral from 220 million-year-old ancient reefs. He collaborated with a Japanese scientist who also is a UM geoscience faculty affiliate. Stanley’s next published paper will outline this research.

Stanley currently is continuing his reef research with a UM doctoral student in the Sonoran desert of Mexico, studying a little-known and relatively unstudied coral reef more than 180 million years old. The reef grew or developed in a tropical ancient seaway after a large mass extinction. Stanley plans a return visit to further his research and better understand the reef extinction and recovery.

Additionally, Stanley hopes to return to Australia to collaborate on studying the dying off of living corals and reefs. At the 2012 International Coral Reef Symposium in Australia, Stanley learned the next mass extinction of reefs already has begun and 30 percent of living reefs already are beyond recovery.

“The most pressing and urgent issue today is the effect of carbon emissions and ocean acidification on living reefs,” he said. “If that were not bad enough, we also have overfishing, pollution and a growing number of coral diseases.”

At the symposium, world specialists on reefs predicted that by the year 2040, there will hardly be any reefs left to save.

“We are entering unknown territory, and fossil reef studies can offer clues to how to help living reefs recover,” Stanley said. “I think a world without coral reefs would be like a Van Gough painting without color. Paleontology can provide data to help make corrections before we enter that territory.”

The tradition of AAAS Fellows began in 1874. AAAS was founded in 1848, and with 254 affiliated societies and academies of science serving 10 million individuals, it is the world’s largest general scientific society.
Contact: George Stanley, UM Paleontology Center director and geosciences professor, 406-243-5693, george.stanley@umontana.edu.
New Training Semi Tractor-Trailer Arrives at Missoula College

November 25, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana mascot Monte was on hand recently to celebrate the arrival of a new training semi tractor-trailer rig at Missoula College UM. The unit was purchased with Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor and will enhance short-term training opportunities at MC.

A second semi tractor-trailer is expected to arrive soon and it will be converted into a training vehicle with observation seats in the sleeper unit. The two new units replace older models that had close to 1 million miles.

“This grant allowed Missoula College offer more courses and meet the ever-growing workforce demands for CDL drivers,” MC Outreach Director Vida Wilkinson said.
The 160-hour class meets the training standards required by trucking firms for over-the-road drivers. Students receive instruction to prepare them to take the knowledge test, which if passed results in a driving permit that allows them to enter the driving phase.

Once they have achieved the Class A Commercial Driver License, they spend another 40 hours behind the wheel receiving interstate transportation instruction. Students get specific training in chains and ice driving, electronic and traditional log books, legal requirements, and strapping, banding and tarping loads.

Course creator and instructor Mark Dodge has more than 25 years of experience in the trucking industry.

For more information call MC Workforce Navigator Mickey Lyngholm at 406-243-7879.

###

Contact: Vida Wilkinson, program manager and director of outreach, Missoula College UM, 406-243-7871, vida.wilkinson@umontana.edu.
Missoula College to Offer Noncredit CNA Course

November 24, 2014

MISSOULA – Missoula College University of Montana will offer a noncredit certified nursing assistant course during winter session, Jan. 5-23, 2015.

The training will take place at the Missoula College East Campus, located at 909 South Ave. W. Clinical hours will take place at Hillside Health Care Center, located at 4720 23rd Ave. The course will prepare students for careers in health care which require the supervision of a licensed nurse.

The curriculum includes first aid and CPR training, training in providing or assisting in client care, use of equipment, and documenting and reporting patient care. The coursework and clinical study provides the necessary information and skills needed for employment in long-term, home-care and acute-care settings. Students also will prepare for and complete the Montana Department of Health State Nursing Assistant Competency Exam.

Nursing assistant lecture classes will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays Jan. 6-23. A CPR and first aid training will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jan. 5. Students will participate in a certified nursing assistant
Missoula College to Offer Noncredit CNA Course

The course costs $850, which includes the textbook, training, supplies and the state examination fee. Participants do not need to be enrolled UM or MC students, and no previous academic experience is required.

The application deadline is 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. Students accepted into the noncredit CNA course will need to submit payment by Monday, Dec. 29. Application requirements include submitting a copy of current immunization records and copies of an online criminal background check. Course enrollment is limited to 10 students. The application is available online at http://www.mc.umt.edu/outreach/Workforce/CareerTechTrain/cna.html.

To register, call Suzette Dussault, Missoula College UM Dean's Office administrative associate at 406-243-7812 or email suzette.dussault@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Suzette Dussault, administrative associate, Missoula College UM Dean's Office, 406-243-7812, suzette.dussault@mso.umt.edu.
Ukraine, Russia Crisis to be Discussed in Upcoming President’s Lecture at UM

November 24, 2014

MISSOULA – A University of Southern California professor and director of the School of International Relations will deliver the next installment of the 2014-15 President’s Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

Robert English will present the Ezio Cappadocia Memorial Lecture on Politics and History, “Ukraine, Russia and the West: Crisis, Causes and Consequences,” at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre.

English also will lead a seminar earlier that day, titled “Reconsidering the Cold War’s End,” from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. The lecture and seminar both are free and open to the public.

After receiving a doctorate in politics from Princeton University in 1995, English taught at Allegheny College and then at the Bologna Center of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Since 2001, he has taught at the University of Southern California and became director of the School of International Relations in 2012. His courses at USC include Russian and Post-Soviet Politics; Strategy and Arms Control; International Relations Theory; the Political Economy of Eurasia; Ecological Security and Global Politics; and...
Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict.

Prior to his graduate work at Princeton, English was a policy analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense, involved in strategic and conventional force planning. He later worked as a senior researcher on the Committee for National Security for which he analyzed strategic defense and space weapons, treaty verification and compliance and general Soviet political-military affairs.

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

###

Contact: Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.
High School Students Gather at UM for Model UN Conference

November 21, 2014

MISSOULA – Students from 19 Montana and Idaho high schools will participate in the 49th annual Montana Model United Nations Conference on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 24-25, at the University of Montana.

At the conference, 380 students will represent 111 of the United Nations’ 193 member states, debating and writing resolutions addressing important international issues.

Students will participate on one of five U.N. committees: the Security Council, General Assembly Plenary, General Assembly First Committee (disarmament and security), General Assembly Second Committee (economic and financial) and General Assembly Third Committee (social and humanitarian). Each committee is staffed by a team of UM students from Associate Professor Karen Adams’ Model United Nations class, a service-learning course offered by the Department of Political Science.

Events begin at 8:30 a.m. Monday with opening ceremonies in the North Ballroom of the University Center. The keynote address titled “Ebola: Me, Them and The U.N.!” will be delivered by UM political science Professor Peter Koehn. He also is the founding director of UM’s Office of International Programs and currently serves as
High School Students Gather at UM for Model UN Conference - UM News - University Of Montana

director of UM’s Global Public Health program. All events are free and open to the public.

Students will work on the third floor of the University Center. They will meet in committees from late Monday morning through Tuesday afternoon. At 7:30 p.m. Monday, country teams will meet with other high school groups from their regions to learn about the politics, economics, history and culture of the region during Region Night. Students from the region will present, and MMUN staff who have studied and traveled in the region will lead discussions. An ice cream social will follow.

Closing ceremonies will be held from 2 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday in the UC North Ballroom. During the awards ceremony delegates, schools and conference staff will be honored. Five high school seniors will be awarded scholarships to attend UM.

The Montana Model United Nations Conference is funded by school and delegate fees, as well as contributions from the UM Office of the President, Division of Student Affairs, College of Humanities and Sciences and Department of Political Science.

For more information, including participating high schools, visit MMUN online at http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun or call Adams at 406-214-5451.

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Contact: Karen Adams, associate professor, UM Department of Political Science, 406-214-5451, karen.adams@umontana.edu.
UM Law School Hires New Dean

November 03, 2014

MISSOULA – Paul F. Kirgis, a professor at St. John’s University School of Law, has been selected to lead the University of Montana School of Law as dean. Kirgis will begin his new duties July 1, 2015.

UM Provost Perry Brown made the announcement after an extensive nationwide search.

“Professor Kirgis impressed a wide variety of groups across campus and, importantly, the Montana bench and bar during the search and his two visits to Missoula,” Brown said. “I am confident he will successfully lead the University of Montana School of Law into the future.”

While at St. John’s in New York City, Kirgis received the Faculty Outstanding Achievement Medal and was twice named the professor of the year. He is the founder and faculty chair of the Hugh L. Carey Center for Dispute Resolution and previously served as associate dean for faculty scholarship.

“I am honored by the opportunity to lead the University of Montana School of Law,” Kirgis said. “I look forward to working with the school’s outstanding faculty and the Montana bar to build upon its strong history of innovation and many successes in training practice-ready lawyers.”

The selection also marks a return to the West for Kirgis.
“My family is from Colorado, and the Rocky Mountains have always felt like home,” he said. “I see in the UM School of Law an institution with an important role to play in Montana, the Rocky Mountain region and beyond.”

Kirgis graduated from Virginia’s Washington & Lee University School of Law. He and his wife, Melissa, have two children.

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**Contact:** Perry Brown, UM provost and vice president for academic affairs, 406-243-4689, perry.brown@umontana.edu.
UM School of Art to Host 29th Annual Art Annex Holiday Sale and Show

November 21, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Emerging Ceramic Artists (UMECA) and the Student Sculpture Association (SSA) of the UM School of Art will be holding its 29th annual Art Annex Holiday Sale and Juried Show Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 4-6, in the Art Annex.

The Art Annex is located on the UM campus adjacent to the Adams Center. The event is free and open to the public.

The sale will include ceramics and sculpture by students and faculty from the School of Art and the show will feature student work created in the past year. The work will be juried for entry and awards by ceramic sculptor Chris Dufala, an Archie Bray Foundation Resident.

The dates and times of this year’s event are as follows:

- **Thursday, Dec. 4, 4-7 p.m.**: Opening celebration with live music. Awards presentation at 5 p.m.
- **Friday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.**: Sale continues
Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m. –7 p.m.: Sale continues

Proceeds from the sale benefit UMECA and SSA. Funds will be used for student projects such as scholarships, visiting artists, student travel to conferences, and wood for the Anagama kiln firing.

For more information, email UM Professor Beth Lo at elizabeth.lo@umontana.edu or call the UM School of Art office at 406-243-4181.

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Contact: Beth Lo, professor, UM School of Art, 406-243-4181, elizabeth.lo@umontana.edu.
UM Releases Retail Line With Throwback Colors

November 21, 2014

MISSOULA – The classic copper, gold and silver colors are making a one-year comeback at the University of Montana.

On Friday, Nov. 21, UM released a limited-edition retail line featuring its official school colors of copper, gold and silver. The line, called Montana Tradition, includes clothing and several select non-apparel items. A list of retailers carrying the products is available online at http://www.umt.edu/tradition.

Fall 2015 will mark 20 years since the University retired the traditional school colors for its current spirit colors of maroon and silver. The change happened in 1995 after the Grizzlies beat Marshall University to win their first-ever NCAA Division I-AA national football championship. Team uniforms and school merchandise became maroon and silver in 1996, and the University has continued to use the spirit colors since then.

"When you see maroon and silver, you think UM, and that's not going to change" said UM President Royce Engstrom. “At the same time, we know UM has many die-hard Griz fans who love our traditional colors. We are pleased to be able to celebrate the upcoming 20-year anniversary of the ’95 championship with a limited-
UM Releases Retail Line With Throwback Colors - UM News - University Of Montana

edition line."

For more information about UM colors, call UM Alumni Association Director Bill Johnston at 406-243-4023 or email bill.johnston@umontana.edu. For more information on the Montana Tradition line, call UM Vice President for Integrated Communications Peggy Kuhr at 406-243-5806 or email peggy.kuhr@umontana.edu.

###

Contact: Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2523, peggy.kuhr@umontana.edu.
UM Students Take Top Honors at American Indian Science and Engineering Conference

November 20, 2014

MISSOULA – Two Native American graduate students at the University of Montana took home top honors for their oral research presentations at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society National Conference in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 13-15.

Moses Leavens, a biochemistry and biophysics graduate student at UM and a member of the Chippewa Cree Nation, took first place for his research presentation titled “Biophysical Analysis of the Ubiquitin: Associate Domain One.”

Don Belile, a UM graduate student studying systems ecology and a member of the Oglala Sioux Nation, took second place at the conference for his research presentation titled “Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Ungulate Browsing on Willow Communities Within the Northern Range of Yellowstone National Park, U.S.A.”

UM Director of Indigenous Research and STEM Education Aaron Thomas was in Orlando, Fla. for the
UM Students Take Top Honors at American Indian Science and Engineering Conference - UM News - University Of Montana

conference and watched Leavens and Belile receive their awards.

“It was exciting to see the University of Montana prominently represented among all the schools in the country at the awards ceremony,” Thomas said. “Moses and Don have been working hard on their research and were diligent in preparing for their talks. It was nice to see their efforts rewarded.”

Leavens and Belile were among four UM students at the conference, which draws about 1,500 Native Americans from across the country. They placed higher than 10 other students in the research-presentation category.

Held annually since 1978, the AISES National Conference is a three-day event convening high school juniors and seniors, undergraduate and graduate students, teachers, workforce professionals and corporate partners, with the goal of increasing the representation of American Indians and Alaskan Natives in engineering, sciences and other related technology disciplines.

For more information, call Thomas at 406-243-2052 or email aaron.thomas@umontana.edu.

###

Contact: Aaron Thomas, UM director of indigenous research and STEM education, 406-243-2052, aaron.thomas@umontana.edu.
Students Support Students During New UM Fundraising Drive

November 20, 2014

MISSOULA – As the fall semester kicked into gear, the T-shirts began to show up everywhere. They read “Montana Strong” in Grizzly maroon and silver. Just another piece of UM swag? Not quite.

The T-shirts are part of a much larger fundraising effort launched by the University of Montana Foundation. The new effort, called the Student Foundation, aims to increase awareness among students of the value of philanthropy. This year, the group will raise money to create a scholarship for students with financial need, to be awarded for the 2015-16 academic year.

That’s where the T-shirts come in. For every $15 gift, students receive a Montana Strong shirt to show their pride for and support of their school. UPTOP, a clothing company owned by UM alumni Colt and Luke Anderson, designed and donated the T-shirts.

“Private support from alumni and friends allows UM to continue to attract great students and faculty who keep the University of Montana strong,” said Adam Johnson, a member of the volunteer Student Foundation committee. “It is important to build this culture of philanthropy early, starting with students.”
Though it’s still in its infancy, the Student Foundation already has raised $2,840. Molly Adamson, who manages the program, expects that number to increase as more students learn about the impact of giving.

“Even a small gift – $10 or $15 – adds up,” Adamson said. “Together UM students can show they care about each other and their school.”

Student giving societies are a growing trend at colleges nationwide, as universities recognize that students who are involved with philanthropy while on campus will be more likely to give back as alumni. Students also have rallied around the idea of raising funds to support their own.

Donations can be made on campus at the UM Foundation offices in Brantly Hall or online at http://SupportUM.org/StudentFoundation. T-shirts are available for pick up at Brantly.

The Student Foundation is launching several promotions and giveaways over the next few weeks for its donors. The Student Foundation Committee will be handing out bags of popcorn in the University Center on Friday, Nov. 21, in celebration of the Brawl of the Wild Griz-Cat football game. They also will have Montana Strong shirts available in time for Saturday’s game. Visit the group’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/UMstudentfoundation or follow them on Twitter (@UM_Studs) to learn more.

UM students are no strangers to giving back. The Student Foundation will replace the Senior Class Gift Campaign, which in years past has funded solar panels for the Farm to College program greenhouse behind the Lommasson Center, the greenhouse itself, a campus map installed at the M on Mount Sentinel, benches, trees and bike racks.

###

Contact: Molly Adamson, call center manager, University of Montana Foundation, 406-243-5611, molly.adamson@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A project to unify the University of Montana’s Web presence has earned recognition as a model of efficiency from University Business magazine. UM is one of eight colleges that will be featured in the magazine’s December 2014 issue. The Models of Efficiency program recognizes innovative approaches for streamlining higher education operations through technology and/or business process improvements.

In early 2013, UM launched a new branding effort and redesigned the University’s home page with in-house talent. After the home page launched, a three-person Web team in Central IT embarked on a project to extend consistent design and brand elements to departmental websites. The effort, dubbed Project Ponderosa, entailed developing a flexible Web template in UM’s Cascade content management system, convincing departments to adopt the new template and providing support to departmental staff.

The Web team, made up of Nick Shontz, Karl Fite and Kayla Pierson, didn't have the resources to build every site, so they created a process that allowed departmental Web managers to do most of the work. They developed a powerful support website (http://www.umt.edu/web) and offered weekly help sessions with demos and hands-on development.
“We didn’t mandate use of the templates,” said Mario Schulzke, UM’s assistant vice president for marketing. “The approach was to give people the tools and resources they want to use, and because of that adoption has been high.”

Since launching the project last year, 153 UM websites have moved to the new template. Another 62 are in the migration process.

“Eliminating silos may seem like a simple task, but it can be exceedingly difficult, especially when it comes to digital,” said University Business senior editor Tim Goral. “The University of Montana streamlined its Web presence by finding one vendor solution that worked for the entire campus, creating new branding opportunity while better serving each department’s individual needs.”

UM’s Chief Information Officer Matt Riley also praised the efforts.

“Web development at UM used to be a free-for-all with no consistency, poor marketing and Web accessibility issues,” he said. “Now we are turning out large numbers of quality websites in a short amount of time with the same size staff.”

University Business is the leading publication for senior managers at colleges and universities throughout the United States, reaching 75,000 leaders who manage enrollment, technology, business, finance, facilities and academic affairs. More information is available at http://www.universitybusiness.com.

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Contact: Matt Riley, UM chief information officer, 406-243-6100, matt.riley@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana Professor of restoration ecology Cara Nelson just returned from Kuwait where she worked with scientists at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research to develop effective strategies for restoring arid land ecosystems.

As chair of the Society of Ecological Restoration, Nelson was in Kuwait to sign a memorandum of understanding with KISR to work together on restoring Kuwait’s arid lands.

Kuwait’s land has been damaged by the Gulf War, oil production operations, overgrazing by camels, off-road vehicle use and other human-land-use pressure. Through Gulf War reparation funds, Kuwait is working to meet the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity target to restore 15 percent of its land.

More than 38 percent of the Earth contains arid land ecosystems. Strategies developed in Kuwait will assist with restoring these ecosystems and combating desertification throughout the Middle East and across the globe.
While in Kuwait, Nelson also gave a keynote address at the International Symposium on Native Plant Production, which brought together experts in habitat restoration from nine countries.

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**Contact:** Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.
UM Researchers Help Shape National Policy on Childhood Trauma

November 19, 2014

MISSOULA – Researchers at the National Native Children’s Trauma Center of the University of Montana took part in a U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearing Wednesday, Nov. 19, on preventing childhood trauma in Indian Country. The researchers also were centrally involved in a major report released Nov. 18 by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Richard van den Pol, director of the Institute for Educational Research and Service where the National Native Children's Trauma Center is located, provided written and oral testimony to the Senate committee hearing that was chaired by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT).

Van den Pol noted that the amount of childhood trauma exposure for some American Indian and Alaska Native children can be as much as 500 percent greater than the general population. He emphasized that economical, evidence-based interventions for use in schools and community agencies can significantly reverse the impacts of trauma.

The work of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network also was highlighted in van den Pol’s comments, as...
well as the impact that major studies such as the Adverse Childhood Experiences study have had on deepening the general public’s understanding of how addressing childhood trauma has a dramatic impact on adult well-being and public health costs.

Speaking alongside van den Pol was Yvette Roubideaux, acting director of Indian Health Services, and Robert Listenbee, director of the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Marilyn Bruguier Zimmerman, director of UM’s National Native Children’s Trauma Center, also attended the hearing as part of her work with the 11-member U.S. Department of Justice Defending Childhood Advisory Committee on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence.

Zimmerman, a member of the Assiniboine-Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, was appointed to the committee in 2013 and has been involved in six field hearings and listening sessions across the U.S. during the past year.

On Nov. 18, the DOJ committee chaired by former North Dakota Sen. Byron Dorgan and Native American musician Joanne Shenandoah, released an extensive report titled “Ending Violence So Children Can Thrive.” The report contained 56 recommendations for the U.S attorney general and Congress.

Examples of recommendations Zimmerman and the committee made include establishing a permanently staffed Native American Affairs Office within the White House, having the National Institute of Justice fund research on trauma screening for Native youth, and implementing widespread training in trauma and suicide prevention for all agencies serving youth in Indian Country.

Zimmerman also is part of a 12-member congressionally appointed national Commission to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

For more information on UM’s National Native Children’s Trauma Center, visit http://iers.umt.edu/National_Native_Childrens_Trauma_Center. To access the DOJ report visit http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/defendingchildhood/pages/attachments/2014/11/18/finalaianreport.pdf.

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**Contact:** Matt Taylor, associate director, UM Institute for Educational Research and Service, 406-243-5367, matt.taylor@mso.umt.edu.
MMAC Visiting Artist Vanessa German to be Featured on NBC’s ‘Meredith Vieira Show’

November 19, 2014

MISSOULA – Nationally recognized contemporary artist Vanessa German, currently on exhibit at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at the University of Montana, will be featured on “The Meredith Vieira Show” at 3 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 26.

As described on the show’s website, “its ‘Pick Me Up Truck’ Week: Meredith’s truck hits the road to surprise a deserving woman who is painting a prettier picture for the kids in her community in Pittsburgh by helping them heal through art.”

German was artist-in-residence at UM and the MMAC earlier this month. Her exhibition features mixed media sculptures that reference folk art and the transatlantic slave trade, or as she states, “the western coast of Africa, the east coast of the Carolinas, the east end of Pittsburgh.”

German’s Homewood neighborhood in Pittsburgh has been called “One of America’s Most Violent
Neighborhoods.” Her work is a response to gun violence and prostitution that stands in opposition to the community-building and healing words of Martin Luther King Jr. German hosts an Art House in her community, creating a safe and creative outlet and haven for her neighborhood’s children.

German’s exhibition “Bitter Root” continues through Saturday, Jan. 10, in MMAC’s Paxson Gallery, located in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center at UM. This exhibition title has been shortened from German’s title “Bitter Root, Lost Loot, Sore Tooth, Oh Shoot, Whole Truth, Traveling Reckoning Show.” Her collection reflects the feeling of journey this body of work contains. She has a long affiliation with author James Lee Burke’s novel “Bitterroot.”

German’s visit was sponsored in part by UM’s DiverseU, a series of activities that prompt dialogue in order to explore the complexities of human experience, promote understanding and create community through the practice of civil discourse. During her visit she spoke with students and the public and performed in downtown Missoula during First Friday.

MMAC’s academic year gallery hours are noon-3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and noon-6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. The museum is open to the public with a suggested $5 donation. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum.

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Contact: Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu.
MMAC Visiting Artist Vanessa German to be Featured on NBC’s ‘Meredith Vieira Show’ - UM News - University Of Montana
National Opera Association Awards First Place to UM’s ‘The Legend of Orpheus’

November 19, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Music Opera Theater and Symphony recently brought home a first-place prize for their production of “The Legend of Orpheus,” which was performed in February.

UM submitted its opera production entry to the National Opera Association’s annual competition. Through the competition, the NOA seeks to encourage and reward creative, high quality opera productions in professional companies and college programs across the U.S.

Opera directors enter the competition by submitting a video recording of a live performance to a panel of judges. The judges evaluate each opera, select winners of each category and provide comments for the director.
UM professors Anne Basinski, stage director; Luis Millàn, conductor; David Cody, musical director; and Joy French, choreographer, all collaborated with scenic, costume and lighting designers from Missoula Community Theatre to produce the Baroque pastiche production.

“This was a very special creative project,” said Basinski, director of UM’s Opera Theater program and production director. “The four of us pooled our ideas and suggestions, talked over the design of the show and each of us brought something unique and necessary to the process.”

Basinski, Millàn and Cody chose music by various composers from the 17th and 18th centuries and wrote their own version of the Orpheus myth, changing the lyrics to fit the story.

“Frankly, getting to ‘hand-pick’ some of the most beautiful music ever and weave it into an evening to showcase our students’ talents – well, that can only be described as a labor of love,” Basinski said. “The students were intrigued, excited and proud to participate in an opera built especially for them.”

In 2013, UM’s Opera Theater program took first place in the Collegiate Opera Scenes competition, which also was sponsored by the NOA.

This is the second time UM Opera Theatre and Symphony Orchestra have won the coveted opera production award. In 2006 they earned the award for their production of Mozart’s “The Marriage of Figaro.”

The award will be presented in January at the NOA convention held in Greensboro, N.C. Basinski and Cody also will present a session at the convention titled “DIY Baroque Pastiche! Discussing the Development of ‘The Legend of Orpheus.’”

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**Contact:** Anne Basinski, director, UM School of Music Opera Theater, 406-544-2991, basinksia@mso.umt.edu.
National Opera Association Awards First Place to UM’s ‘The Legend of Orpheus’ - UM News - University Of Montana

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MMAC Presents Film ‘Tim’s Vermeer’ at Roxy Theatre

November 18, 2014

MISSOULA – The Montana Museum of Art & Culture at the University of Montana will present the film “Tim's Vermeer” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Roxy Theatre, located at 718 S. Higgins Ave. in Missoula. Admission is $5.

Created in 2013, the film is directed by Teller – of Penn & Teller fame – and runs 80 minutes. Afterward, MMAC will host a brief discussion about the film.

The film explores recent theories of how 17th-century Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer created some of the best-beloved masterpieces in the history of art. The paintings have long been admired for their near-photographic realism, despite the fact they were painted hundreds of years before the invention of photography.

In the film, Tim Jenison, a Texas-based engineer and inventor, sets out on a research project that spans eight years and ultimately changes the history of art. Jenison’s adventure takes him to Delft, Holland, where Vermeer painted his masterpieces; on a pilgrimage to the north coast of Yorkshire, England, to meet artist
David Hockney; and to Buckingham Palace in London to visit the Royal Collection.

MMAC invites visitors to view current exhibitions by artists Vanessa German and Amanda Browder in galleries located in UM’s Performing Arts Radio and Television Center. Open hours during the academic year (Aug. 25-May 16, 2015) are noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. The museum is open to the public with a suggested $5 donation. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum.

Contact: Brandon Reintjes, curator of art, UM Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, brandon.reintjes@mso.umt.edu.
UM Ranks No. 16 on ‘Best Online MPH Programs’ List by PublicHealthOnline.org

November 13, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Masters of Public Health program recently was recognized as one of the best online programs of 2014-15 by PublicHealthOnline.org, a leading online resource for public health education and careers.

UM was ranked No. 16 out of 50 colleges and universities. The list included programs that met the standard of excellence of traditional on-campus public health programs and also provide students the flexibility to continue their education through the graduate level while working and building experience in their chosen field.

“We are pleased to be able to partner with so many public health leaders in our community and across the nation to promote student success,” said UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences Chair Craig Molgaard. “Our program contributes to a 21st century liberal arts education by promoting among our students the liberal arts values of social and global responsibility, ethical and critical reasoning, and leadership.”

The rankings are based on a proprietary scoring system that uses various cost, quality and student support metrics. They include online tuition cost, academic/career counseling services and placement services for
graduates. To be ranked the schools must be a public or not-for-profit institution, accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health and offer four-year programs and an online master's degree in public health.

"Many public health careers require a master's degree," said Wes Harris, founder of PublicHealthOnline.org. "Today's working professionals need the flexible learning options these online MPH programs offer."

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, health education, community health and other public health-related occupations are expected to grow faster than average.

"Earning a master's degree and having work experience could be the difference between getting the job and not," Harris said. "It's important for students and working professionals to know their options when it comes to furthering their careers."

The full listing of Best Online MPH Programs can be found online at http://www.publichealthonline.org/degree-programs/masters/. For more information on UM's School of Public and Community Health Sciences, visit http://publichealth.health.umt.edu/.

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Contact: Craig Molgaard, UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences chair, 406-243-4445, craig.molgaard@umontana.edu; Teresa Mullins, director, Public Health Online community outreach and partnerships, 650-204-3162, teresa@publichealthonline.org.
MISSOULA – Montana Public Radio, a public service of the University of Montana, will make several changes to its weekly program schedule beginning on Monday, Nov. 17.

The station will add new programs, drop or reschedule others, and increase the amount of locally produced music programming. MTPR local news will be integrated throughout the day in the National Public Radio news magazine programs “Morning Edition” and “All Things Considered.” The NPR news program “Here and Now” will be added to the schedule each weekday at 1 p.m.

The new schedule is designed to increase listener access to MTPR’s best local and national programs, to invite new listeners to try MTPR and to celebrate the talent of the station’s Montana program producers. The changes reflect listener feedback received during fundraisers, in phone calls, emails, letters and audience surveys from April and October 2014.

The morning weekday schedule remains unchanged. Many of MTPR’s most popular programs, including “Moth Radio Hour,” “This American Life,” “TED Radio Hour,” “The Write Question,” “Musician’s Spotlight” and
“Radiolab” will move to 7 p.m. following NPR’s “All Things Considered.” Locally produced music programs will follow from 8 p.m. to midnight each weekday.

In a letter sent to station supporters, MTPR management explains that, “We chose to invest our resources in our expert local music producers – investing in Montana talent and Montana jobs and staying true to our service rooted in local production.”

In a cost-saving move, MTPR will drop its Public Radio International membership and its programs, including “Afropop Worldwide,” “Selected Shorts” and “Science Friday.”

In the letter, MTPR management admits that some of the changes were difficult decisions and asks listeners to take a “leap of faith” with them. “How do we stay true to our mission and standard of excellence with the staff and financial resources available?” the letter asks.

Listeners will have an opportunity to weigh in on the program changes during a multicity listening tour and an additional survey to be conducted during the winter. The new schedule is available online at http://www.mtpr.org. Paper copies are available by calling 406-243-6400.

MTPR is a NPR affiliate, broadcasting throughout western and central Montana, as well as online at http://www.mtpr.org.

Contact: Michael Marsolek, program director, Montana Public Radio, 406-243-4096, michael.marsolek@mtpr.org; Linda Talbott, development director, Montana Public Radio, 406-243-4931, linda.talbott@mtpr.org.
UM Law Students Finish First in Negotiation Competition

November 13, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana School of Law students recently took first place in the American Bar Association-sponsored Law School Regional Negotiation Competition held Nov. 7-8 at Seattle University.

The team competed against other law schools from throughout the Northwest and western Canada, and this year additional competitors from other Rocky Mountain states and the Midwest joined the field.

UM team members Nick VandenBos of Bozeman and Lindsay Thane of Missoula, both second-year UM law students, advanced to the final round after earning the best score of 24 teams during the opening Friday and Saturday sessions.

“Negotiation competition tests preparation as well as a team’s ability to react to situations on the fly,” VandenBos said. “You prepare for months to be able to improvise – that’s what makes this kind of competition exciting. You learn to trust your partner and read your opponent.”

“Negotiations have been my most beneficial and rewarding experience in law school, both in terms of the
practical skills and the relationships I’ve built with my team,” Thane said. “The way we challenge each other in practice and incorporate the feedback we receive has strengthened us as a team.”

Also competing at this year’s event were third-year UM law students Samir Aarab of Oslo, Norway, and Elizabeth Musick of Memphis, Tenn. Aarab and Musick are slated to graduate in May.

First-year UM law students Kathryn Ore of Missoula and Dylan Vinzant of Scappoose, Ore., made their first appearance as alternates.

Under the direction of their coach Klaus Sitte, a UM adjunct faculty member, the team put in many long hours to prepare for the two-day competition. In addition to coaching the UM negotiation team, Sitte teaches Alternative Dispute Resolution and Negotiations. He has coached the law school’s negotiation teams since 1990, with six previous teams making national appearances – earning second and third place – and one team making an international competition appearance.

The VandenBos/Thane entry into the final round marks the 18th time UM teams have advanced to compete among the remaining four finalists. VandenBos became the first UM School of Law student to participate two successive years in the national competition.

“Sam and I have prepped more teams for nationals than any other previous UM negotiation team,” Musick said.

“I can say with confidence that we have a very strong negotiations program and I am proud to have been a part of it,” Aarab said. “Working with and being on this team has been very rewarding.”

For Vinzant and Ore, this year’s competition consisted of observation and reflection.

“I find myself applying the negotiations principles and fundamentals we’ve learned in everyday interactions,” Vinzant said.

“Watching our experienced team members was fascinating as they applied what we’ve learned,” Ore said. “We’re already developing and crafting new ways to incorporate what we learned at regionals into next year’s competition season.”

VandenBos and Thane will travel to Houston for the national competition in February 2015. The national competition will bring together the top teams from the U.S. and Canada. The competition is held in conjunction with the American Bar Association’s Midwinter Meeting.

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Contact: Klaus Sitte, UM School of Law adjunct faculty member and negotiation team coach, 406-243-4670, klaus.sitte@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – For the second time this year, Stephen Kalm, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Montana and a music professor, will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

On the evening of Friday, Nov. 21, Kalm will sing in an American Composers Orchestra concert of Meredith Monk’s “Night” under the direction of George Manahan.

Monk is Carnegie Hall's Composer of the Year for its 2014-15 season. For many years, Kalm was a member of the Meredith Monk Vocal Ensemble, and participated in the creation and premieres of several of her works, including the Bessie Award-winning vocal work “The Politics of Quiet” from which “Night” originated.

For more information about the performance, visit the Carnegie Hall website at www.carnegiehall.org/Calendar/2014/11/21/0730/PM/American-Composers-Orchestra/.

Last April, Kalm also performed at Carnegie Hall in the opera “The Wayward” by Harry Partch in a program curated by 2013-14 Carnegie Hall Composer of the Year David Lang. The New York Times reviewed the
Missoula Man, UM Dean to Perform at Carnegie Hall - UM News - University Of Montana


Kalm holds a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, a Master of Art from Queens College and a doctorate in music from The City University of New York.

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**Contact:** Stephen Kalm, UM College of Visual and Performing Arts dean, 406-243-4970, stephen.kalm@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Robert Currie, executive director of the Montana Digital Academy located in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Montana, was honored as an innovative education leader on Nov. 4 at a worldwide symposium held in Palm Springs, Calif.

The International Association for K-12 Online Learning gave Currie the Outstanding Individual Contribution to K-12 Blended and Online Learning Award. It recognized Currie’s overall body of work for significantly increasing the credibility and advancement of K-12 blended and online learning.

“Robert Currie has made an extraordinary impact in online and blended learning in taking Montana to the forefront of the field,” said Roberta Evans, dean of UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. “Bob’s experience leading Michigan Virtual School to success was the perfect knowledge base for him to build the Montana Digital Academy into one of the premiere online educational organizations in the country.

“Each day, Montana students, teachers, families and administrators measuring in the tens of thousands benefit
directly from opportunities to study a full array of high school classes, including many exciting electives, which would otherwise be inaccessible to them,” she said. “Its quality guaranteed with instruction from exemplary Montana educators; these programs offer opportunities for success in every content area. His vision, leadership and collaboration in building programs have benefitted us all in strengthening education in our state,” she said.

In December 2009, Currie was hired from a nationwide applicant pool to create and implement a legislatively funded virtual school in Montana. He developed and now directs a unique program designed to serve a diverse group of needs for vastly different constituents across the state.

When it opened in fall 2010, the academy offered an Original Credit format, which has since grown to a comprehensive set of 100 courses. Based on input from Montana educators, the academy also expanded to offer a Credit Recovery program, a series of core subject classes for students needing to make up credits to get back on track to graduate. The third program MTDA offers is the Middle School Multi-Language Sampler, which allows middle school students to get a taste of up to six world language courses prior to making decisions about their high school program.

Most recently, Currie expanded the reach of MTDA by building partnerships with other groups to increase digital learning opportunities for students and teachers in Montana. The Montana Digital Professional Learning Network is a digital platform that offers professional development to Montana’s geographically diverse teaching force.

The network delivers a wide variety of workshops and courses to Montana’s teachers, ranging from classes detailing the integration of Montana’s Indian Education for All requirements into common core-aligned English classes to workshops that bring quality art instruction into rural Montana. The network also provides podcast channels to professional development providers across the state to promote digital-learning assets.

In addition, during the past year Currie initiated the statewide implementation of EdReady, a mathematics and English/language arts online assessment tool that creates a personalized learning path designed to lead each student to their pre-determined readiness goals. After extremely encouraging pilot results, Evans and Currie crafted a proposal to bring EdReady to every student in Montana, grades seven through college. The deployment and support matched the philanthropic vision of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, which created EdReady Montana as a gift to all students in our state.

EdReady Montana is the first statewide implementation of this tool in the U.S., and despite being only months into the project, the platform already is bringing targeted mathematics assessment and individualized learning plans to nearly 3,000 students across the Montana education landscape, primarily in blended learning environments. It has won the support of state leaders including Gov. Steve Bullock, State Superintendent Denise Juneau, Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian, school district superintendents and university presidents in support of student-success initiatives.

“Bob’s contribution to the field of education has been and will be felt by thousands of students, parents, schools and citizens for decades to come,” said UM President Royce Engstrom.

Eight other award recipients were recognized at the symposium for innovative learning practices, cutting-edge research and outstanding individual achievements in the field of blended and online learning.
“The awards are all the more meaningful as they come directly from nominations by colleagues and peers,” said Susan Patrick, iNACOL’s President and CEO. “Together, this year's winners represent the powerful transformation to personalized learning happening in schools around the globe.”

To learn more about the iNACOL Innovator Awards visit http://bit.ly/2014inacolawards. To learn more about the Montana Digital Academy visit http://www.montanadigitalacademy.org/.

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**Contact:** Robert Currie, Montana Digital Academy executive director, 406-203-1812 ext.101, robert.currie@montanadigitalacademy.org.
Nearly Half of Montana’s Young Families Struggle to Make Ends Meet

November 10, 2014

MISSOULA – With almost half of Montana’s children growing up in low-income households, a new report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation calls for a coordinated approach to lifting kids out of poverty by delivering high-quality childhood education while simultaneously providing parents with access to job training and career paths that enable them to financially support their families.


“For too long, government programs and agencies have viewed parents and children separately, instead of as a whole family impacted by the same challenges of living in poverty,” said Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation. “Now is the time to move forward with common sense practices that can disrupt the cycle of poverty.”

According to Thale Dillon, director of Montana KIDS COUNT at the University of Montana’s Bureau of Business...
and Economic Research, the report identifies three major challenges facing today’s low-income families: inflexible and unpredictable jobs that do not offer high enough wages to support a family; lack of access to high-quality, reliable early child care and education; and increased stress levels for parents and children. The solution: connect families with the tools and skills that will help them overcome each of these obstacles and, ultimately, build better futures for themselves and their children.

The Partnership Project in Bozeman is a prime example of this two-generation approach, Dillon said. The home-visit program is a collaboration between THRIVE, the Gallatin City-County Health Department, the Gallatin Mental Health Center and high-quality child care programs. Together, they are working to coordinate services so young, primarily low-income parents can get the skills and tools to become stable and self-sufficient.

All Partnership Project home visitors do developmental screening to make sure the children are on track. In the U.S. nearly one-third of children age 5 or younger in low-income families have parents with concerns about their development, and the sooner an intervention is put in place, the more effective it is, Dillon said.

While the child is in child care, the young parents set goals with their family support worker. The family support worker then connects the parent with partnering programs that provide mental health and public health services, as well as education and job training.

The Casey report also emphasizes the need for programs and agencies to work more closely together. The Montana Best Beginnings Advisory Council is one example of a federally funded effort to bring together agencies and organizations that serve young children and their families. The council was tasked with creating a plan for a comprehensive early childhood services system to meet the needs of young children and families in our state.

The Casey report outlines three broad recommendations to build opportunities for two-generations:

- **Create policies that equip parents and children with the income, tools and skills they need to succeed as a family and as individuals.** State and federal governments should strengthen policies that expand job-training, educational and career opportunities; adopt policies that give parents more flexibility at work, such as paid time off; increase the Child Tax Credit for low-income parents of very young children; and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit to increase the income of noncustodial parents.

- **Put common sense into common practice by structuring public systems to respond to the realities facing today’s families.** State and federal governments should use interagency commissions and innovation funds to promote collaboration and align policies and programs.

- **Use existing child, adult and neighborhood programs and platforms to build evidence for practical pathways out of poverty for families.** Early childhood, K-12, home visits, job training and supportive housing programs could partner with one another to connect parents with financial coaching, job-readiness assistance, education and other tools to achieve financial stability, while ensuring their children have access to high-quality care and schooling.

“Creating Opportunity for Families: A Two-Generation Approach” will be available at 12:01 a.m. EST, Wednesday, Nov. 12 at http://www.aecf.org. Additional information is available in the KIDS COUNT Data Center at http://datacenter.kidscount.org. The center lists the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of indicators of child well-being. The Data Center allows users to create rankings, maps and graphs.
Nearly Half of Montana’s Young Families Struggle to Make Ends Meet - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Thale Dillon, director, Montana KIDS COUNT, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, thale.dillon@business.umt.edu.
Regional High School Musicians Convene at UM, Perform in All-Star Concert

November 10, 2014

MISSOULA – High school musicians from 60 regional schools will convene at the University of Montana Nov. 14-16. During the three days, 220 students will rehearse with UM instrumental faculty, work with world-renowned and Missoula-based composer David Maslanka and perform with renowned international trombonist Phil Ostrander.

High school students hail from Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington and will compete to join the Maroon Wind Ensemble, Silver Wind Ensemble and String Orchestra. Those who are selected will perform in a concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre. This concert and two others are open to the public. The schedule and details follow:

- **7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14**: UM Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band I, Dennison Theatre. James Smart and Rob Tapper, directors; David Maslanka, guest composer; and Phil Ostrander, guest trombone soloist. Free.

- **7:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15**: String Orchestra of the Rockies, Music Recital Hall. Tickets cost $23 for
Regional High School Musicians Convene at UM, Perform in All-Star Concert – UM News – University Of Montana

adults, $20 for seniors and $10 for students or children. Purchase tickets online at http://www.umt.edu/griztix/.

- **2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 16:** UM High School All-Star Maroon and Silver Wind Ensembles and String Orchestra, Dennison Theatre. James Smart, Luis Millán and Russell Newbury, conductors; David Maslanka, guest composer; and Phillip Ostrander, guest trombone soloist. Free.

"We have students coming from tiny farm towns and large urban centers from four states this year," event organizer and UM music Professor James Smart said. "It will surely show them that UM is the place to be if they are interested in quality, diversity and creativity."

The School of Music also will conduct scholarship auditions throughout the weekend, allowing out-of-town students to gain maximum value from their Missoula visit. UM's School of Music is one of just a handful of schools in the region that offers a full range of programs and professional music degrees.

The school boasts an impressive 100-percent placement rate for its graduates of the Music Education Program – and has done so for more than a decade.

"UM is committed to student success, and scholarships for talented students are an important part of that commitment," said Stephen Kalm, dean of UM's College of Visual and Performing Arts.

To learn more about the All-Star Ensembles visit http://www.umt.edu/music/campsfestivals/UMAllstars.php.

To learn more about supporting scholarships and the School of Music, call UM Arts Director of Development Christian Gold Stagg at 406-243-4990 or email christian.goldstagg@umontana.edu.

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Contact: James Smart, UM director of bands, 406-243-4382, james.smart@umontana.edu.
Regional High School Musicians Convene at UM, Perform in All-Star Concert - UM News - University Of Montana
Nationally Recognized Artist to Host Reception, Gallery Tour at UM

November 07, 2014

MISSOULA – Vanessa German will offer a gallery tour of her exhibition “Bitter Root” on Thursday, Nov. 13, during an artist’s reception. The exhibition continues through Jan. 10 in the Paxson Gallery of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center at the University of Montana. The reception will include food and live music by Keith Hardin from 5 to 7 p.m. in the PAR/TV Center lobby. The gallery tour and reception are free and open to the public.

The Jim and Jane Dew Visiting Artist Lecture that German was scheduled to deliver on Monday, Nov. 10, has been canceled. Instead, German will offer an exhibition tour during the reception. The tour will begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

German is a nationally recognized sculptor, poet, activist and accomplished performing artist who creates figures out of found and recycled materials. She is an educator and advocate for children, creating safe spaces for art-making in her Homewood neighborhood of Pittsburgh that has been called one of America’s most violent. She has been in residence at UM and the Montana Museum of Art & Culture for a week, meeting with students and classes. Her visit was sponsored by UM’s DiverseU, a series of activities that prompt dialogue in order to explore the complexities of human experience, promote understanding and create community through
the practice of civil discourse.

Her exhibition at MMAC features mixed media sculptures that reference folk art and the transatlantic slave trade, or as she states, “the western coast of Africa, the east coast of the Carolinas, the east end of Pittsburgh.” The exhibition title has been abbreviated from German’s spoken word phrase “Bitter Root, Lost Loot, Sore Tooth, Oh Shoot, Whole Truth, Traveling Reckoning Show,” reflecting the feeling of journey this body of work contains. She has a long affiliation with author James Lee Burke’s novel “Bitterroot.”

“I’ve been listening to this book on tape for about five years,” German said. “I listen to it over and over again, because it makes me feel like I am in Montana. I love hearing about the landscape. Whenever I need to, I listen to this book [and] I travel to Montana, to a wide place that is almost exactly the opposite from where I am, and it helps me to feel good.”

MMAC’s academic year gallery hours are 12-3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and 12-6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. The museum is open to the public with a suggested $5 donation. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum.

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Contact: Brandon Reintjes, curator of art, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, brandon.reintjes@mso.umt.edu.
Can the Bobcats Food Drive Launches Nov. 8

November 07, 2014

**MISSOULA** – The 15th annual Can the Bobcats Food Drive, an off-field competition between the University of Montana and Montana State University to see which school can collect the most donations for their local county food banks, begins Saturday, Nov. 8.

The competition ends on Nov. 22 at halftime of the Brawl of the Wild football game between UM and MSU, which will be held in UM’s Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The winner of the competition will be announced during halftime.

“In 2013 we nearly doubled what we brought in for 2012 with 54,656 pounds of food and more than $60,000 in cash resources for Missoula Food Bank,” said Julie Bryant, UM organizer for the drive. “Despite our accomplishments, Bozeman pulled out the win yet again as they received more than 40,000 pounds in food on game day alone. With their big end-of-drive surge, we found ourselves coming up short again.”

People are encouraged to donate heavy food items such as potatoes, rice, beans, peanut butter, flour and canned vegetables, fruit and tuna. Monetary donations also are accepted and will be converted to pounds on a
$1.60 per pound of food ratio.

Organizers of the drive ask nonperishable food donations be taken to collection locations throughout Missoula to support those in need in Missoula County. A list of participating drop-off locations can be found at http://canthebobcats.com/drop-off-locations/. Additional campus drop-off locations are The Source and The Food Court in the University Center, and The Corner Store in the Lommasson Center.

Griz supporters can make monetary contributions at any Missoula Federal Credit Union location or directly to the Missoula Food Bank with an online donation at https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/missoulafoodbank, with the donation dedicated to the Can the Bobcats Food Drive. Any UM Dining venue also will accept monetary contributions and UM students can donate up to $13 per week from their meal plan to support the cause.

“We are so impressed with the Missoula community in how many pounds of food were donated in 2013,” Missoula Food Bank community relations director Jessica Allred said. “The numbers are phenomenal considering just five years ago the drive collected a combined donation of just 13,403 pounds.”

An average of 900,000 pounds of food is donated to Missoula Food Bank each year, helping to feed approximately 6,000 people each month.

For more information, to host a collection box or to learn about sponsorship opportunities visit http://canthebobcats.com/drop-off-locations/.

Can the Bobcats is coordinated by UM’s Office of Fraternity and Sorority Involvement. For more information about UM’s efforts call Bryant at 406-243-5527 or email julie.bryant@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Jessica Allred, Missoula Food Bank community relations director, 406-549-0543 ext. 103, jessica@missoulafoodbank.org; Julie Bryant, UM assistant director of fraternity and sorority involvement, 406-243-2005, julie.bryant@umontana.edu.
UM to Celebrate International Education Week Nov. 17-21

November 07, 2014

MISSOULA – The Office of International Programs at the University of Montana invites the UM community and the public to celebrate the 15th annual International Education Week Monday-Friday, Nov. 17-21.

International Education Week celebrates the benefits of international education and exchange. It is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education that seeks to promote programs that prepare U.S. students for a global environment and attract students from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the U.S. The weeklong event is observed and celebrated all across the U.S. and in many countries around the globe.

UM’s Office of International Programs will host several educational activities and events during the week. Most events are free and open to the public. The schedule is:

Monday, Nov. 17

• 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Office of International Programs Information Session. Learn more about International
Education Week and about UM’s educational resources and scholarship opportunities. University Center Atrium.

- **Art Call:** “Get Global: Local Art Inspired by the World.” Missoula K-8 students are invited to create artistic pieces inspired by cultures of the world. All projects must be submitted by Feb. 17, 2015, to be considered for the competition. Participating schools will select art pieces to be displayed during Missoula’s First Friday events on March 6. For more information, call Julie Lennox, head of Missoula International School, at 406-542-9924.

**Tuesday, Nov. 18**

- **8 a.m.-5 p.m.** Office of International Programs Information Session. Learn more about International Education Week and about UM’s educational resources and scholarship opportunities. UC Atrium.


**Wednesday, Nov. 19**

- **8 a.m.-5 p.m.** Office of International Programs Information Session. Learn more about International Education Week and about UM’s educational resources and scholarship opportunities. UC Atrium.

- **4:30-6:30 p.m.:** Education Abroad Panel Discussion with Nancy Marra, director of the Office of Field Experiences in UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences; UM student teaching candidates; and Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry, UM director for study abroad, student exchanges and institutional partnerships. UC Room 330.

- **7-9 p.m.:** Student Brainstorming Workshop. Students from Hellgate High School's International Baccalaureate program and UM’s Global Leadership Initiative will exchange ideas on global challenges and how they can be addressed through hands-on action, service and projects. This event is not open to the public.

- **6:30-8 p.m.:** The Global Gateway Foreign Film Series presents a screening of “Babette’s Feast.” Abraham Risho, executive chef and owner of the Silk Road restaurant in Missoula, will introduce the film. Free. Roxy Theater, 718 S. Higgins Ave.

**Thursday, Nov. 20**

- **8 a.m.-5 p.m.** Office of International Programs Information Session. Learn more about International Education Week and about UM’s educational resources and scholarship opportunities. UC Atrium.

- **12:30-2 p.m.:** “Global Competence Certification for Businesses” with Udo Fluck, director of UM’s Global Gateway program. The two-part seminar designed for business owners, employees and individuals who want to enhance their cross-cultural competency. Advance registration required. Learn more at
• **6-9 p.m.**: “Experience Montana Model United Nations.” Each fall, 350 Montana and Idaho high school students attend Montana Model UN. In this session, the public is invited to find out what happens at Montana Model UN. UM students, high school students and community members are welcome to participate. Education Center Room 211.

**Friday, Nov. 21**

• **8 a.m.-5 p.m.** Office of International Programs Information Session. Learn more about International Education Week and about UM’s educational resources and scholarship opportunities. UC Atrium.

For more information about International Education Week at UM, call Layokat Rasulova at 406-243-2288 or email layokat.rasulova@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Layokat Rasulova, UM Office of International Programs, 406-243-2288, layokat.rasulova@mso.umt.edu.
Dynamic and Celebrated Piano Duo to Perform for Missoula Audiences

November 07, 2014

MISSOULA – Two pianists hailed as “the most dynamic duo of this generation” by the San Francisco Classical Voice will visit Missoula this month to engage in three interrelated activities at the University of Montana.

Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe, known as the Anderson & Roe Piano Duo, will be on campus Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 18-19, to perform two children’s concerts, provide a masterclass for UM music majors and Montana music teachers, and perform a public recital for the Missoula community.

The Palm Beach Daily News described their performance as “glorious” and “something rarely encountered in concert-going.”
UM music Professor Hesla began negotiating with the duo’s New York City agent more than a year ago to bring them to Missoula as part of the UM Keyboard Division’s “Celebrate Piano Series.”

“They played the headliner recital for more than 2,000 people at the national conference of the Music Teachers National Association in March of 2013,” Hesla said. “I’ve attended more than 30 national conferences and have never seen a normally sedate audience go so bonkers over the featured artists.”

The duo will come to Missoula after engagements in Estonia, Germany and Switzerland. Their Missoula residency will begin on Tuesday with two UM-sponsored children’s concerts for students from the Missoula County Public Schools and other Missoula-area schools.

“We’re excited that more than 1,400 fifth-graders will get to see the duo perform in UM’s George and Jane Dennison Theatre,” Hesla said.

Hesla explained that the impetus for the children’s concerts came from the Kennedy Center selecting MCPS as one of only a handful of school districts in the nation to be part of their “Any Given Child” program.

The goal of the “Any Given Child” initiative is to create full and equal access to the arts. To that end, UM’s Keyboard Division donated the concert to area children, passing only minimal fixed theater costs to the schools. The concerts are slated for 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

Anderson & Roe will also present a free masterclass from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday for UM music majors and Montana State Music Teachers Association Conference attendees. Members of the general public are welcome to attend the masterclass in UM’s Music Recital Hall, for free.

The duo’s visit will culminate with a public concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, in UM’s Dennison Theater. Tickets cost $15, $25 or $35 and are available online at http://www.umt.edu/griztix/ or by calling the UMArts Box Office at 406-243-4581.

“Anderson and Roe are the globe’s biggest stars among piano duos,” Hesla said. “This is a rare opportunity to hear the best in the business, and, with repertoire from Mozart to Star Wars, their programs are so varied that everyone will find something to love.”

For more information on the duo, visit their website at http://www.andersonroe.com/. For more information on their Missoula visit, call Hesla at 406-243-6055 or email steven.hesla@umontana.edu.

Contact: Steven Hesla, professor, UM School of Music, 406-243-6055, steven.hesla@umontana.edu.

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Dynamic and Celebrated Piano Duo to Perform for Missoula Audiences - UM News - University Of Montana
October 07, 2014

MISSOULA – A University of Wisconsin-Madison professor who specializes in the environmental history of the American West will deliver the next installment of the 2014-15 President’s Lecture Series at the University of Montana.


Cronon also will lead a seminar earlier that day, titled “The Portage: Storytelling and the Making of an American Place,” from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. The lecture and seminar both are free and open to the public.

With doctorate degrees from Oxford and Yale universities, Cronon currently serves as UW-Madison’s Frederick Jackson Turner Professor of History, Geography and Environmental Studies. In 2003, he became the Vilas Research Professor, the university’s most distinguished chaired professorship.
Cronon has been a Rhodes Scholar, a Guggenheim Fellow and a MacArthur Fellow. He served as the president of the American Historical Association from 2012 to 2013.

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

Contact: Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.
Renowned UM Plant Ecologist Nominated for Regents Professor

November 07, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana biology Professor Ragan “Ray” Callaway, an internationally renowned ecologist, has been nominated to become UM’s 10th Regents Professor.

Upon approval by the Montana Board of Regents during its Nov. 20-21 meeting in Missoula, Callaway’s new title will be Regents Professor of Ecology.

“I’m so gratified by this nomination,” Callaway said. “What an amazingly kind thing for my colleagues to do.” Regents Professor is the top rank awarded to faculty members in the Montana University System. The Regents Professor title was established in 1991, and the full UM list of those who have received the honor is online at http://www.umt.edu/provost/about/RegentsProfs.php.
Regents Professors must demonstrate unusual excellence in instruction, scholarship and service, as well as distinctive impact through their work. The rank is awarded by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the University president.

Callaway recently was selected for a 2014 Reuters’ list titled “The World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds” for publishing the greatest number of highly cited papers between 2002 and 2012. “With exceptional work in all three areas of responsibility – teaching, research and service – Professor Callaway has become a model of productivity and impact,” UM President Royce Engstrom said. “Rare are those faculty members who establish internationally renowned research programs and at the same time care deeply about students at all levels, and further, contribute to the well-being of their institution and profession through service. Ray is such a person.”

He studies how plants function together in communities and ecosystems, and his research has taken him around the world. Callaway tracked knapweed back to its native range in Central Europe, researching how other plants in that ecosystem naturally keep knapweed in check.

“Most of my time is now spent exploring how exotic plant invaders dominate habitats despite limited opportunities for local adaptation and suppress native species that have had ample opportunities to locally adapt,” Callaway said.

He also has sought out low-lying cushion plants on mountaintops from Missoula to Alaska, the Andes, Europe and New Zealand, studying how plants facilitate survival among one another and form communities in some of the harshest environments on Earth.

Callaway earned his doctorate from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1990. After a postdoctoral fellowship at UC Santa Barbara, he had a joint faculty appointment with the University of Illinois and Duke University. He joined UM as an assistant professor in 1993 and earned the rank of full professor in 2002.

Students working in Callaway’s lab range from undergraduates to postdoctoral researchers and include scientists from around the world. They study topics ranging from resource competition to ecological changes brought about by herbivores and soil microbes.
Renowned UM Plant Ecologist Nominated for Regents Professor - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Ragan “Ray” Callaway, professor, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 406-243-5077, ray.callaway@mso.umt.edu.
Tickets on Sale for UM’s 2014 Grizzly Football Awards Banquet

November 06, 2014

MISSOULA – Celebrate the Grizzly football season with University of Montana football players and coaches during the annual Grizzly Football Awards Banquet held Sunday, Nov. 23, at the DoubleTree Edgewater Ballroom.

Participants can meet the team during a social that begins at 12:30 p.m. A luncheon and awards ceremony will follow at 1 p.m.

Players will be honored with awards such as the Tony Barbour Award, which is given in memory of a loyal Grizzly fan. It is presented annually to a UM player “who best exemplifies outstanding practice habits and makes an unselfish contribution to the betterment of the Grizzly football team.”

The annual video of the 2014 season highlights will debut during this event and UM President Royce Engstrom, Director of Athletics Kent Haslam and Head Coach Mick Delaney will deliver remarks.

Tickets cost $25 and are available for purchase by calling the Adams Center Box Office at 406-243-4051 or...
888-666-8262. Tickets will not be available at the door. For more information call Nat Forcier at 406-243-2969.

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**Contact:** Nat Forcier, administrative associate, UM Grizzly football program, 406-243-2969, natalie forcier@msu.umt.edu.
Award-Winning Author to Present Craft Lecture, Reading at UM

November 06, 2014

MISSOULA – Award-winning author Bernard Cooper will visit the University of Montana to present a craft lecture and nonfiction reading Friday, Nov. 21. The lecture will be held from 12:10 to 1 p.m. in McGill Hall Room 210 and the reading will begin at 7 p.m. in the Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall.

Cooper has written two memoirs, “Maps to Anywhere” and “Truth Serum,” as well as a novel, “Year of Rhymes,” and a collection of short stories, “Guess Again.” His work has appeared in Story, Ploughshares, Harper’s, The Paris Review, The New York Times Magazine, five volumes of The Best American Essays, and has been read on NPR’s “This American Life” and “Selected Shorts.”

He has won numerous awards and prizes, among them the
PEN/Ernest Hemingway Award, an O. Henry Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Cooper is a core faculty member in the Masters of Fine Arts program at Bennington College and teaches in the Masters of Professional Writing program at the University of Southern California. He currently is completing a collection of essays titled "My Avant Garde Education," which is expected to be published in 2015.

Both events are free and open to the public. Cooper’s visit is sponsored by the UM Creative Writing Program and the President’s Writers-in-Residence Series.

For more information visit the UM Creative Writing Program website at http://www.cas.umt.edu/creativewriting/, call Program Coordinator Karin Schalm at 406-243-5267 or email karin.schalm@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@msou.umt.edu.
Two-Part Seminar to Teach Global Competency for Businesses

November 03, 2014

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Global Gateway and the Montana World Affairs Council are teaming up to bring the Missoula community the first-ever “Global Competency Certification Seminar for Businesses.”

The two-part seminar will focus on developing a firm understanding of culture; its impact in business communication, collaboration and negotiation; and how to develop strategies for business success when dealing with culturally diverse individuals. It is designed for business owners, employees and individuals who want to enhance their cross-cultural competency.

The seminars will take place in two parts. The first session will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20. The second will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 19. Both seminars will be held at The Loft, located at 119 W. Main St. in downtown Missoula.

Session 1 costs $90 for the public and $70 for Montana World Affairs Council members.

Session 2 costs $150 for the public and $120 for council members. Registration for both sessions costs $200.
Two-Part Seminar to Teach Global Competency for Businesses - UM News - University Of Montana

for the public and $150 for council members.

To register or for more information, email Aimee Ryan at aryan@montanaworldaffairs.org.

The Montana World Affairs Council is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 2000 by former U.S. Ambassador Mark Johnson dedicated to bringing the world to Montana and Montana to the world. For more information visit http://www.montanaworldaffairs.org or call the Montana World Affairs Council at 406-728-3328.

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Contact: Aimee Ryan, Montana World Affairs Council, 406-728-3328, aryan@montanaworldaffairs.org.
UM Students Work With Trout Unlimited on Ninemile Creek Restoration

November 03, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana ecological restoration program students are collaborating with Trout Unlimited in restoration of Ninemile Creek from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8.

Students and volunteers will plant riparian vegetation, trim willow cuttings and collect aquatic insects. Members of the public are welcome to volunteer.

Volunteers will learn about the impacts of placer mining in Montana and the restoration challenges associated with heavy metal pollution and habitat fragmentation in watersheds. The group also will collect aquatic insects to help monitor the impacts of degradation from placer mining and overall restoration efficacy.

Placer mining has occurred in the Ninemile watershed since the mid-1800s. Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, reconnecting and restoring native trout fisheries across the United States, and the Montana chapter of TU has been restoring key sections of the Ninemile watershed for the past eight years.
“This will be a great chance for community members to participate in hands-on restoration, as well as learn about Trout Unlimited’s work to restore environmental damage in this area,” said UM ecological restoration student Collin Taylor.

This event is being organized as part of the UM’s restoration ecology capstone course.

Those interested in volunteering are asked to RSVP to Tanner Banks at jeffrey.banks@umontana.edu or 970-390-9492. Bring water, rubber boots or waders, work gloves, warm clothes and a lunch. Plan to meet at Exit 89 off Interstate 90 at 10 a.m. to caravan to the site. Snacks will be provided.

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Contact: Cara Nelson, UM associate professor and ecological restoration program director, 406-243-6066, cara.nelson@umontana.edu; J. Tanner Banks, UM ecological restoration student, 970-390-9492, jeffrey.banks@umontana.edu.