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Missoula Ranked Second Per Capita in Producing Peace Corps Volunteers

December 24, 2014

MISSOULA – Missoula made the Peace Corps’ list of Top Metropolitan Areas in producing Peace Corps volunteers per capita, jumping four places this year to the No. 2 spot with 8.1 volunteers per 100,000 residents.

The Peace Corps recently released the 2014 rankings of the top volunteer-producing states and metropolitan areas across the country. Montana ranked No. 7 among states with the highest number of Peace Corps volunteers per capita, with 4.1 volunteers currently serving worldwide per 100,000 residents.

“Peace Corps volunteers promote a better understanding of Americans around the world by sharing their unique hometown perspective during their service,” Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet said. “As we forge a modern Peace Corps for modern times, we remain committed to building a volunteer force that reflects the rich diversity of our country, and doing more to recruit and retain the best and brightest across the country.”

Since the Peace Corps was established in 1961, 1,389 Peace Corps volunteers from Montana have traveled abroad to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries.

This is the second year Montana has been ranked in the top 10. To view a list of states and corresponding volunteer numbers, visit <http://files.peacecorps.gov/images/news/releases/14-PRS-topstates.pdf>.

“Montana and Missoula produce volunteers who are devoted to taking their skills abroad and who strive to bring a unique perspective to the communities they serve,” said Erin Carlson, acting manager of the Peace Corps West Coast Region. “We are pleased to recognize the state’s volunteers who set the bar high for commitment, dedication and performance.”

In 2011, the University of Montana became the first public university in the country to partner with the Peace Corps to offer the Peace Corps Preparatory Program. Additionally, any UM student can earn a Peace Corps certificate through participation in the international development studies minor in UM’s College of Arts and Humanities.

The Peace Corps sends Americans abroad on behalf of the United States to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Volunteers work at the grassroots level to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development.

For more information about the Peace Corps, visit <http://umt.edu/peace-corps>. To speak with UM’s Peace Corps campus representative Amber Gladney in the Office of Career Services, call 406-243-2839 or email peacecorps@umontana.edu.

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UM Researchers Measure 2014 as Strong Year for Montana Tourism

December 23, 2014

MISSOULA – This year was another strong year for tourism in Montana according to preliminary 2014 numbers gathered by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana. Nearly 11 million nonresidents visited Montana and spent more than \$3.9 billion in the Treasure State in 2014.

Nonresident visitation appears to be the same or slightly lower than 2013. While the number of individuals may have dropped slightly from 2013, the number of travel groups increased during the past year. Spending by nonresidents grew by 4 percent in the first quarter of the year, 20 percent in the second quarter and 9 percent in the third quarter.

"In total, nonresident travelers spent more than \$3.9 billion in Montana," UM ITTR Economic Analyst Kara Grau said, "the benefits of which ripple throughout the economy, supporting jobs and providing income, as well as contributing to taxes."

Despite having slightly fewer people per visiting group than in 2013, and therefore lower individual visitation, many business owners benefitted from the increased group traffic during the past year. About 68 percent of all

tourism-related business owners surveyed by ITRR this fall reported an increase in visitation or customers in 2014, and 31 percent of those said they saw a significant visitor increase of more than 10 percent over 2013. Only 10 percent reported seeing a decrease in customers. More than half (57 percent) of businesses responding to the ITRR survey expect to see their visitation increase in 2015.

ITRR Director Norma Nickerson said several other factors also indicate a good year for tourism.

“In 2014 hotel rooms sold were up 6 percent through November and skier visits showed a 6 percent increase over the 2012-13 season,” she said. “The national parks in Montana have experienced an 8 percent increase over 2013 and the number of people stepping off a plane in Montana was up nearly 18 percent, through November.”

All information and reports published by ITRR are available online at <http://www.itrr.umt.edu>. For more information call Nickerson at 406-243-5107 or email norma.nickerson@umontana.edu.

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UM to Host Nation's First Rural Medicine Hackathon

December 23, 2014

MISSOULA – The nation's first rural medicine hackathon is scheduled for March 20-22, 2015, at the University of Montana in Missoula.

The Frontier Medicine Better Health Partnership is collaborating with students at MIT Hacking Medicine to host Montana's first live Rural Medicine Hackathon event in 2015. This event, sponsored by UM's Blackstone LaunchPad, will focus on the unique challenges faced by rural and frontier communities.

A hackathon is a process, toolset and gathering that accelerates building teams to tackle the complexities of an industry's toughest problems. Companies such as Facebook and Google and other successful entities have applied this method of innovation to solve their biggest challenges. This concept is now being applied to health care, and in Montana, will be applied to rural health care.

Over the past three years, MIT Hacking Medicine has held nearly two dozen events on four continents, in partnership with Harvard Medical School-affiliated hospitals and leading health care institutions around the world. These events create networks, foster vibrant communities and have resulted in innovative solutions to

complex problems.

In many cases, projects have evolved into new venture opportunities for start-up companies. The Montana event follows the MIT Hacking Medicine general model.

Medicine hackathons bring clinicians and administrators together with a diverse group of entrepreneurs, engineers, students, medical residents, programmers and designers to collaborate openly. The process takes a broad range of ideas and concepts and results in new and innovative solutions that can be implemented.

The Hackathon will encompass chronic disease management, telemedicine, population health, reducing preventable hospital re-admissions, electronic medical records, workforce development, end-of-life quality of care, care transitions and access to care in rural communities.

Blackstone LaunchPad is a co-curricular, experiential campus program designed to introduce entrepreneurship as a viable career path and develop entrepreneurial skills and mindsets through individualized coaching, idea and venture-creation support. Since its establishment at the University of Montana in February 2014, more than 100 ventures have been advised.

For more information visit <http://hackingruralmedicine.org/>, call Monica Bourgeau of the FMBHP at 406-544-3098 or email mbourgeau@mymrhc.org.

###

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UM One Step Closer to Discovering New Worlds

December 18, 2014

MISSOULA – “First light” marked a new dawn for University of Montana astronomy on Dec. 16.

UM astrophysics Associate Professor Nate McCrady, along with a team of researchers, achieved “first light” on Tuesday – a term used to describe successfully taking first observations from a telescope.

McCrady traveled from Missoula to Mount Hopkins, Ariz., to oversee the installation of UM’s new 0.7-meter telescope by crane at the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory.

The UM-owned telescope is part of Project MINERVA, a multi-telescope observatory designed to hunt for rocky planets similar to Earth around nearby stars. The project involves four telescopes, each worth about \$250,000 and owned by different institutions.

With 0.7-meter collecting mirrors, the telescopes work together – flying in formation – to create the power of a telescope with a 1.4-meter mirror that would cost several million dollars.

The telescope owners are UM, Harvard, Penn State and the University of New South Wales in Australia. University of New South Wales also successfully installed its telescope at the site on Tuesday.

“This is a big moment for our astronomy program,” McCrady said of the event. “It places UM shoulder to shoulder with our partner institutions, doing cutting-edge research in exoplanet science.”

Currently, the telescopes owned by Harvard and Penn State are undergoing testing in Pasadena, Calif., and soon also will be installed atop the mountain with the other two telescopes.

The telescopes are housed 7,600 feet above sea level at the Whipple Observatory, which was selected as the site because it offers an average of 300 clear nights a year for observation. McCrady said the site’s other advantage is its talented and capable observatory staff.

McCrady and his team are still in the testing phase, but they are expecting to collect and monitor the data beginning in January. The telescopes will collect data robotically, and may be operated directly from McCrady’s lab on campus via an Internet link. UM students also will be able to operate the telescope from campus and download the images for analysis.

“This telescope provides a world-class facility and observation site for UM faculty and student research,” McCrady said. “Our students will now have access to a top-notch astrophysics tool at a truly professional site.”

Harvard and Penn State paid for their telescopes directly, while UM received a \$1.125 million NASA grant to fund Montana’s telescope and three years of research. New South Wales received its funding at the end of 2013.

The MINERVA team plans to do a formal dedication event sometime in early 2015. At this event, all four telescopes will be in place and representatives from all of the partner institutions will be present.

Contact: Nate McCrady, , associate professor, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy, 406-243-2041, nate.mccrady@umontana.edu.



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UM Journalism Students to Provide 2015 Legislative News Service

December 18, 2014

HELENA – Two students from the University of Montana School of Journalism have been chosen to provide news coverage of the Montana Legislature for newspapers and radio stations across the state. The session begins Jan. 5.

Michael Wright, a senior, will provide weekly coverage for interested newspapers across the state. Wright hails from a dairy farm in southern Idaho and has written for the Montana Kaimin, **Big Timber** Pioneer and Montana Journalism Review. The Montana Newspaper Association helps fund Wright's coverage.

Madelyn Beck, who has worked with Montana Public Radio, 'In Other Words' and Public Radio Exchange will provide daily reports to more than 50 Montana broadcasters. Beck came to the University from a ranch near **Manhattan**. Her coverage is made possible by grants from the Greater Montana Foundation and the Montana Broadcasters Association.



The students' work this session will be supervised by UM Adjunct Professor Courtney Lowery Cowgill, a former Associated Press reporter and editor and the current managing editor of the online news site PBS MediaShift. The 2015 session marks the 12th time journalism students have covered Montana's regular biennial legislative sessions for newspapers and the fifth time they have provided coverage for radio stations.

Boulder Monitor Editor Jan Anderson said while community newspapers like hers can get out to Helena to cover the legislature occasionally, only a reporter covering the Capitol day-in and day-out can fully cover the complexity of the issues playing out there. That's where the UM students come in.

"The best way for our readers to know how well the state lawmakers they elected are representing their interests is to have a reporter at the Capitol watching," Anderson said. "The UM Legislative News Service allows us to help our readers keep track of the issues that have local implications."

Peter Christian of KGVO Radio in Missoula said the student radio reports are an integral part of his station's daily news offerings.

"Here at KGVO, we deeply appreciate the UM legislative updates for use in our morning news show, 'Montana Morning,'" he said. "They are concise, fair and balanced, and well-produced."

It's also invaluable experience for the students, said School of Journalism Associate Professor Denise Dowling.

"This project is a win-win for citizens of Montana and our journalism students," Dowling said. "The people of the state get coverage of the goings-on at the Legislature – coverage they would otherwise not receive. Students gain excellent experience covering Montana's legislative body and producing professional work for media outlets under deadline."

Newspapers or radio stations interested in receiving the coverage are encouraged to call Cowgill at 406-531-4794 or email

courtney.cowgill@umontana.edu.

###

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New York Times Ranks UM Dean's Performance Among Best Classical Events of 2014

December 15, 2014

MISSOULA – The chief music critic of The New York Times included a University of Montana dean's performance at Carnegie Hall in his list of the best classical music events of 2014.

Stephen Kalm, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at UM and a music professor, performed in the Harry Partch opera "The Wayward" on April 22 as part of a series titled "Collected Stories," which was curated by Carnegie composer-in-residence David Lang.



"What a thrill to be included with the likes of the Berlin Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera and the New York Philharmonic," Kalm said.

The New York Times published the list "Anthony Tommasini's 10 Best Classical Music Events of 2014" on Dec. 11. As one of the 10 performances, Tommasini described Lang's series of six programs as "imaginative" and said each program explored different ways composers have used music to tell tales.

"I'm cheating a bit by singling out two programs," Tommasini wrote. "The first, 'Hero,' paired the singer Benjamin Bagby's version of the Anglo-Saxon epic 'Beowulf' with a rare staging of Harry Partch's genre-defying opera 'The Wayward' about hobos."

"Last April, I had the opportunity to perform with some of America's finest musicians in the nation's most prestigious venue," Kalm said. "'The Wayward' is a complex and riveting set of four operas that marry the sublime and ridiculous, often moving from heartrending depictions of a hobo's life to slapstick comedy."

Kalm also performed at Carnegie Hall on Nov. 21, signing in an American Composers Orchestra concert of Meredith Monk's "Night" under the direction of George Manahan.

###

Contact: Stephen Kalm, UM College of Visual and Performing Arts dean, 406-243-4970, stephen.kalm@umontana.edu.



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TEDxUMontana Tickets on Sale Dec. 17

December 12, 2014

MISSOULA – Tickets to TEDxUMontana go on sale at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17. The event will take place from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, 2015, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre at the University of Montana.

Local, regional and national speakers will address the theme of language. They include Missoula Mayor John Engen, Salish and Pend d'Oreille language school Executive Director April Charlo, climate change communicator Susan Joy Hassol, journalist Clay Scott, poet Sheryl Noethe, Missoula Symphony conductor Darko Butorac and Raptors of the Rockies Director Kate Davis.

Tickets cost \$40 for general admission and \$20 for students. Light refreshments will be provided. The event will not be available as a live webcast, and tickets are limited.

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TED has created a program called TEDx, a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience.

The University event is called TEDxUMontana, where the x equals an independently organized TED event. At the TEDxUMontana event, TEDTalks video and live speakers will combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group.

The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events, such as UM's, are self-organized.

To purchase tickets visit <http://www.umt.edu/tedx/>. For more information call 406-243-2858.

###

Contact: Jace Laakso, TEDxUMontana director, 406-243-2858, jace.laakso@umontana.edu.



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Free Cybersecurity Seminar Slated for Dec. 18 at UM

December 12, 2014

MISSOULA – Former CIA Operations Officer John Strauchs and security and intelligence expert Deviant Ollam will be at the University of Montana on Thursday, Dec. 18, to present a seminar on cybersecurity.

The public is invited to “Cybersecurity Seminar: Defeating Intrusion Sensors” from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in the Interdisciplinary Science Building Room 110. The seminar is free.

In the classic movie “Sneakers,” a team of hackers-for-hire breaks into banks and corporations, bypassing alarm systems, motion detectors and multifactor access control systems. Strauchs, a technical adviser for the movie, will explain to Missoula audiences the workings of real operatives.

Using live demonstrations, participants will learn how professionals bypass electronic access control systems using rare earth magnets and other techniques.

They also will learn how attacks can be carried out using nothing but scrap aluminum. Ollam, a physical security specialist, will explain how aluminum is used to attack padlocks, door locks and electronic access

controls.

By highlighting vulnerabilities in the weakest systems, the seminar will show how small, smart design changes can dramatically improve security.

The event will conclude with a panel discussion followed by a hands-on physical security workshop that will help participants learn how to protect their own facilities, equipment and programs.

Strauchs has 40 years of experience in security and intelligence. In addition to working with the CIA, he led security and fire engineering firm Systech Group, Inc. from 1985 to 2007. Before that he was a principal in charge of security engineering for Gage-Babcock & Associates. Strauchs has written or contributed to more than 90 professional articles and 10 books. He has appeared on the Today Show, NBC Nightly News, Jim Lehrer News Hour and Equal Time, among others.

Ollam's first and strongest professional love always has been teaching. A graduate of the New Jersey Institute of Technology's Science, Technology & Society program, he is fascinated by the interplay that connects human values and social trends to developments in the technical world.

While working as a security auditor and penetration-testing consultant with The CORE Group, Ollam also is a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. division of TOOOL, The Open Organization of Lockpickers. Every year at DEFCON and ShmooCon, he runs the Lockpick Village; and he has conducted physical security training sessions for more than 16 high profile organizations including the FBI, the NSA and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

For more information on the seminar, visit http://events.umt.edu/blog/event/cybersecurity-seminar-defeating-intrusion-sensors/?instance_id=5196.

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UM Students Win \$2,500 for Business Plans at Startup Pitch Competition

December 11, 2014

MISSOULA – A panel of experts heard eight potential business plans from University of Montana students at the Fall Startup Pitch Competition on Dec. 9 and awarded \$2,500 in prizes to the best pitches.

Stakeholders within the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs and Blackstone LaunchPad helped organize the event which was open to all UM students and is a precursor to the statewide John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition, held each spring at UM.

Eight teams, chosen from a field of 14 entrants, gathered on campus for the competition. Graduate student Chad Miller, who is working toward a master's degree in business administration, won the \$1,500 overall prize for his presentation on Purus, an engineering support operations management firm which bridges the technology and marketing gaps between oil and gas service companies and their customers. Miller earned an automatic entrance to the spring competition.

A virtual mail-order pharmacy service won as the most exciting startup idea, earning MBA student Markpaul Santos \$500. Santos' Proscriptz contracts local independent pharmacies for prescription order fulfillment. His

goal is to create innovative solutions for an improved working environment providing a premium experience for patients.

Forestry major Stephen Jenkins presented his pitch toward becoming the largest provider of renewable methanol and liquid carbon dioxide in the Northwest. United Methanol would process low-value wood waste to customers at a low cost. Jenkins was awarded \$500 for the most compelling live presentation.

Additional teams who competed included Jamin Dailey with a pitch for Good Hope Ranch; Akram Mirzoev with a business called Gud; Justin Dean and Nathan Hansen with their Basecamp Yellowstone idea; Kevin Kuhns with Not Sponsored; and Katherine Vincent with her pitch on Monter.

More information about MADE is available online at <http://www.business.umt.edu/organizations/MADE.aspx>.

For more information about the Blackstone LaunchPad, visit <http://www.umt.edu/launchpad/>

###

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Montana Journalism Review Releases 2015 Edition

December 10, 2014

MISSOULA – The Montana Journalism Review, an award-winning magazine produced by University of Montana School of Journalism students, has released its 2015 edition.

For the 44th issue, the nation's oldest journalism review has expanded its coverage of media and journalism to neighboring states with a new section titled "Neighborhood Watch."

Managing editor Austin Schempp said the new section provides MJR a chance to serve a wider audience.

"We felt that there was an audience we could reach in surrounding states with issues and news that aren't covered by other magazines," Schempp said.

The theme of the 2015 edition of the magazine is "Shift." Staff and contributors focused on the shifting landscape of the media industry and how journalists, news sources and audiences are adapting to change.

MJR also investigated the state of television news in Montana with a three-part cover story featured in the

center of the magazine.

Throughout the fall semester, MJR staff worked on producing multimedia content and increasing its subscriber base. The magazine's production is part of a Journalism capstone course.

At the School of Journalism centennial celebration event held in September, MJR staff members connected with alumni and gained 100 more subscribers through a quiz asking, "Which type of Montana journalist are you?"

The quiz, along with other exclusive content, can be found online at <http://mjr.jour.umt.edu>.

UM graduate student Abbey Dufoe worked on a new tablet edition that will be released separately.

Montana Journalism Review was founded by Dean Nathaniel Blumberg in 1958. Since 2012, journalism Professor Henriette Lowisch has served as its editor-in-chief and mentored students through MJR's production. In 2014, MJR won several national and regional awards for design and storytelling.

To sign up for a free subscription to the magazine, visit <http://mjr.jour.umt.edu>.

###

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Class A High School Basketball Teams Tip Off in Tournament at UM

December 09, 2014

MISSOULA – Tickets are now on sale for the Northwest-Southwest Class A Tip-Off Classic basketball tournament at the Adams Center on the University of Montana campus. The event runs Friday through Saturday, Dec. 12-13.

Class A boys' and girls' teams from a dozen western Montana high schools will participate in the tournament, including Anaconda, Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Corvallis, Dillon, Frenchtown, Hamilton, Libby, Polson, Ronan, Stevensville and Whitefish.

Games will take place in Dahlberg Arena and the West Auxiliary Gym inside the Adams Center. A complete schedule of games is available online at <http://www.griztix.com>.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Adams Center Box Office and all GrizTix locations. Tickets also may be purchased online at <http://www.griztix.com> or by calling 1-888-666-8262 during regular business hours. Tickets cost \$7 for adults and \$6 for students for full-day general admission seating.

For more information call Adams Center Executive Director Brad Murphy at 406-243-4261 or email brad.murphy@mso.umt.edu.

###

Contact: Brad Murphy, executive director, Adams Center, 406-243-4261, brad.murphy@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Philanthropy Class Awards \$12,500 in Grants to Local Nonprofits

December 09, 2014

MISSOULA – A University of Montana class titled Can Giving Change the World? granted \$12,500 to local nonprofits and will hold a ceremony for them at 9:10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at in the Davidson Honors College Ephron Student Lounge.

The class, which is part of UM's Global Leadership Initiative, awards grants to nonprofits that operate within Missoula County and combat hunger or address mental health issues. Organizations submitted grant proposals to the class earlier this semester.

This semester's grantees are:

- **North Missoula Community Development Corporation:** \$3,000 to fund the Real Meals program
- **Missoula Food Bank:** \$4,500 to support the Kids EmPower Pack program
- **Poverello Center:** \$5,000 to fund a vehicle to improve community outreach

Can Giving Change the World? addresses social responsibility and community building through work in the

nonprofit sector. Students spent the semester learning about philanthropy's general influence in social improvement while also researching nonprofit work and specific community needs in Missoula County.

Andrea Vernon, the director of UM's Office for Civic Engagement, and communication studies Professor Gregory Larson secured the grant money for the class from the Learning by Giving Foundation. This year, the class received an additional grant from the PPL Montana Community Fund.

"This class helps open students' eyes to needs in the community and opportunities with philanthropy," Larson said. "The students become very invested in the grant-making process."

The Global Leadership Initiative is a four-year program open to UM students of all majors. Through this program students attend thought-provoking seminars, become involved in internships and community work, can study abroad affordably and learn skills necessary to be leaders in a global community.

For more information call Vernon at 406-243-5159 or email andrea.vernon@umontana.edu.

###

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IBM Awards UM Power Systems Server for Real-Time Data Analysis

December 08, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana students studying big data have a new tool coming their way. The IBM Power Systems Organization recently granted a scale-out POWER8 processor-based server to the University, which will allow UM students to run IBM InfoSphere Streams software on a state-of-the-art platform that will aid student learning.

The grant was part of IBM's Shared University Research Awards, a competitive, worldwide, equipment award program designed to promote research in areas of mutual value and interest to IBM and universities.

"This donation allows students to analyze real-time data using the new IBM POWER8 processor, the first processor designed and optimized for big data," said Eric Tangedahl, UM School of Business Administration's director of information technology and a faculty member.

UM leads the country in teaching IBM InfoSphere Streams software at the undergraduate level. Currently the software is being taught in two UM courses: Introduction to Real-Time Analytics and Big Data Projects.

“With this grant, our students will gain hands-on experience that not many other students will have access to,” Tangedahl said. “Now, they won’t be held back by hardware performance issues.”

The software allows students to analyze data in real time by extracting information from data in motion. Applications of the software include financial decision-making – being able to track the purchase and sale of stocks in real time – and using social media to monitor a real-time stream of Tweets to analyze public sentiment and anticipate group behavior.

IBM’s donation will be used by UM students and faculty members. In exchange, UM will provide IBM with instructional materials for teaching the InfoSphere Streams programming language.

“I am proud of UM’s focus on building its data sciences program,” IBM Partnership Executive Mary Olson said. “Existing Montana businesses, the vibrant entrepreneurial community and research at every level within the University will benefit from the talent this program develops. UM is building skills for the jobs of tomorrow.”

In order for a university to be eligible for an IBM Shared University Research Award, someone within IBM must sponsor the nomination. The IBM Power Systems Organization sponsored this award, which includes funding, configuration and support. The nomination also was actively supported by Olson and IBM Academic Initiative Skills Leader and Architect Valinda Scarbro Kennedy.

The SUR Awards program is designed to promote collaborative research projects that bring value to IBM, the technology community and the world; increase access to IBM technologies for research and in curriculum development; and provide opportunities within IBM for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students.

IBM’s donation supports UM’s Data Science Initiative, which trains students to become data scientists, data architects and analysts.

For more information on UM’s use of this award call Tangedahl at 406-243-2249 or email eric.tangedahl@umontana.edu.

Contact: Eric Tangedahl, UM School of Business Administration director of information technology, 406-243-6620, eric.tangedahl@umontana.edu.

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\$1 Million Gift Supports Lifelong Learning at UM's MOLLI

December 03, 2014

MISSOULA – The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Montana, known as MOLLI, has received a \$1 million grant from The Bernard Osher Foundation. A \$950,000 endowment gift and \$50,000 in operating funds will provide current and ongoing support for the continued growth of MOLLI.

UM's MOLLI is one of 119 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes located at higher education institutions across the country. The program is a resource for adults age 50 and older who enjoy learning, connecting socially with others and having a relationship with the University. MOLLI courses are enjoyed without the pressure of grades or tests.

The latest endowment gift is the second to the MOLLI program from the Osher Foundation. Foundation President Mary G. F. Bitterman notes that MOLLI's growth and success since its first gift in 2005 has been exceptional.

"The institute's success represents the collective achievement of its staff and a dynamic community of intellectually vigorous members who give generously of their time, talent and financial resources," Bitterman

said. "We applaud the University's leadership for its steadfast support of the program and for embracing the notion that – at its best – education is a lifelong pursuit that has the power to elevate, delight and forge our connection to one another and to a larger world."

MOLLI began in fall 2005 with two lectures, and expanded to five classes by winter 2006. Since then, the program has seen record growth, and during the current fall semester MOLLI offered 23 classes for 930 participants.

Roger Maclean is dean of UM's School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, which oversees the MOLLI program. He said the success of the program is the result of outstanding collaboration between the MOLLI council, the staff at the School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, and UM administrators and faculty members.

"We have a great team that exceeded the expectations of the Osher Foundation which resulted in receiving the wonderful award," he said.

"This generous gift is a real tribute to the many MOLLI members who have worked so hard for the program and participated in the great variety of academic offerings," said MOLLI Council Chair Ann Boone. "We are fortunate to live in a community of 'seasoned adults' who love to learn."

For more information about MOLLI, visit <http://www.umt.edu/molli>.

###

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UM First-Year Student Essay Winners Announced

December 03, 2014

MISSOULA – The First-Year Reading Experience Committee at the University of Montana recently selected freshmen Libbey Barsness and Nathaniel Smith as the winners of the First-Year Essay Contest.

As part of the First-Year Reading Experience at UM, students read “The Things They Carried” by Tim O’Brien, a collection of short stories about a platoon of American soldiers in the Vietnam War. Students were invited to write and submit essays in two categories: Personal Reflection and Analytical. The First-Year Reading Experience Committee received strong submissions in each category, evidence of students’ insightful engagement with O’Brien’s book.

Barsness’ essay, “A Reaction to Tim O’Brien’s Views on Death,” won the Personal Reflection category. Barsness, who was raised in Missoula and moved to Helena following fifth grade, outlined her unique bond with her mother in the essay. Her mother was diagnosed with stage-four ovarian cancer the summer after Barsness’ sixth-grade year, and went through multiple rounds of chemotherapy and numerous surgeries before passing away this past August.

Barsness currently is majoring in history while considering a minor in anthropology.

Smith, a UM Presidential Scholar from Moab, Utah, won the Analytical Essay category with his submission, "The Ambiguity of Truth in 'The Things They Carried.'" His essay examines O'Brien's use of blurred boundaries between fact and fiction to demonstrate the impossibility of objectively understanding war.

Smith plans to major in creative writing or English. Aside from reading and writing, he enjoys outdoor activities such as backpacking, rafting and skiing.

Barsness and Smith each won a \$250 cash prize.

Each year, the First-Year Reading Experience provides new students a common connection through a thought-provoking book. A committee of UM faculty, staff and students select a book from nominations submitted by the entire campus community. The program is not mandatory, but it is highly encouraged to help prepare students for their academic life on campus.

For more information on the First-Year Reading Experience, visit <http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/fyreading>, call The Writing Center Director Kelly Webster at 406-243-2470 or email kelly.webster@umontana.edu.

###

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UM's Annual Christmas Cookie Cook-Off Set for Dec. 15

December 03, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana Dining will host the 17th annual Great UM Christmas Cookie Cook-Off on Monday, Dec. 15. This year's event, themed "A Christmas Story," will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. in the UM Lommasson Center's Food Zoo Dining Room.

The event is open to faculty, staff and students with an active Griz Card and their families and friends. Guests may take home up to half of the cookies they bake, and the other half will be donated to local youth homes, senior homes, group shelters and other nonprofit organizations.

Sysco Foodservice of Montana will donate the cookie decorations and nearly 800 pounds of cookie dough. All other supplies will be provided by UM Dining.

"The only thing participants need to bring is their holiday spirit," UM Dining Director of Marketing Sam Belanger said.

Annually, more than 30 UM campus departments participate in the Great UM Christmas Cookie Cook-Off,

donating about 300 dozen cookies to 16 local charities. In addition to cookie making, UM Dining also will provide beverages, music and a children's play area. Santa will join the party from 5 to 6 p.m.

###

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Montana High School Students Win Scholarships to UM at Model United Nations

December 03, 2014

MISSOULA – Five high school seniors were awarded \$1,000 scholarships to attend the University of Montana last week for their exemplary performance at the 49th Annual Montana Model United Nations Conference. Each winner wrote an outstanding position paper and actively and accurately represented his or her country during two days of debate on world issues.

The awardees include Jag Ashtiani from **Coeur d'Alene** High School, Kelaiah Horat from Ravalli Home School, Meredith Stolte from **Columbia Falls** High School, Wyatt McGillen from **Kalispell** Flathead High School and Remy Arnot from Missoula Hellgate High School.

Any scholarship turned down by one of the first five seniors will be offered to the next senior on the top-20 list. In recent years, at least half of the top-20 seniors have been offered a scholarship.

Schools also were acknowledged with awards at the conclusion of the conference. The 19 participating schools

were divided into small and large delegations based on the number of students they brought to the conference and were judged on the overall preparedness, participation and excellence of their delegates.

The three school award categories include Outstanding School for the top 10 percent, Distinguished School for the top 20 percent and Honorable School for the top 30 percent.

The small delegation winners were:

- **Outstanding School:** Missoula Sentinel High School, advised by Ezra Shearer.
- **Distinguished School:** Polson High School, advised by Katie Rehberg and Abby Connolly.
- **Honorable School:** Ravalli Home School, advised by Tanya Horat.

The large delegation winners were:

- **Outstanding School:** Missoula Big Sky High School, advised by Janice Bishop and Cameron Johnson.
- **Distinguished School:** Kalispell Flathead High School, advised by Lauren Gustafson.
- **Honorable School:** Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy, advised by Robert Miles.

Additional awards were given to the top 20 percent of the 380 students who attended the conference and to the top 20 percent of the 111 country teams. UM students who planned and staffed the conference also were recognized.

The complete award listing, including the top 20 high school senior list, can be found online at <http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun/hs-conference/Awards%20List%20MMUN%202014%20final.pdf>.

For more information on award criteria, go to <http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun/hs-conference/advisor-resources.php>. For information on the conference, including topics, guest speakers, and participating high schools, go to <http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun/hs-conference/default.php>.

###

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UM Dining Presents 'Beatlemania' Dec. 3 in the Food Zoo

December 01, 2014

MISSOULA – University of Montana Dining will present its final fall semester themed meal from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, in the Food Zoo, located in the Lommasson Center.

The event's theme is "Beatlemania," and the Food Zoo will be transformed into a walk-through collage using visual themes from four of the Beatles' hugely successful albums from the 1960s: "Yellow Submarine," "Magical Mystery Tour," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and the "White Album."

Taking inspiration from The Beatles' homeland, the Food Zoo menu will offer British-inspired options, including bangers and mash, fish and chips, English meatloaf and a shepherd's pie bar.

UM Dining Director Mark LoParco, along with three assistants, will suit up as the Fab Four and perform as part of the afternoon's karaoke entertainment.

A "Beatlemania" karaoke competition for currently enrolled UM students will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Contestants may sing one song from The Beatles' catalog.

The karaoke sign-up board will be on display in the Food Zoo from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, through Wednesday, Dec. 3, when the competition begins at 11 a.m. Contestants may perform alone or as part of a four-person group. The best performers will earn prizes sponsored by Coca-Cola and Whitefish Mountain Resort. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes.

Top performers will earn a ski getaway to Whitefish Mountain Resort. There also will be 30 \$10 Bear Bucks gift cards given away. Prize categories are:

- Best Female Performance of a Beatles Song
- Best Male Performance of a Beatles Song
- Best Group (4) Performance of a Beatles Song

“For 15 years we have been offering our student guests bi-monthly themed events,” LoParco said. “We hope the dining diversion offers stress relief from classes.”

Complete rules and regulations are available online at

<http://www.umt.edu/dining/Special%20Events/beatles/Beatle%20Mania%20Rules.php>.

For more information call UM Dining Director of Marketing Sam Belanger at 406-243-5089 or email samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.

###

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UM Students Organize a Panel Discussion Event on Divestment

December 01, 2014

MISSOULA – Divesting university endowments from fossil fuels is a hot topic nationwide as well as at the University of Montana. Is divestment an effective strategy? What are the costs and benefits of divestment? These questions and others will be discussed when panelists address topic of divestment during an event held at UM.

“Divestment at the University of Montana: A Panel for Campus Dialogue” will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4, in Gallagher Business Building Room 122. The event features a diverse set of panelists with expertise on issues of divestment. Their remarks will be followed by a moderated Q-and-A discussion.

Panelists are Dane Scott, director of UM’s Mansfield Ethics and Public Affairs Program and associate professor of ethics; Sarah Rinfret, political science assistant professor; and Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications. The panel will be moderated by Steve Schwarze, UM professor of rhetoric and environmental communication in the College of Humanities and Sciences.

The event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. The event is sponsored by the

Associated Students of UM, ASUM Sustainability Center, The Natural Resource Conflict Resolution Certificate Program and the UM Environmental Studies Program.

For more information call UM graduate student and event organizer Nicola Preston at 617-834-1595 or email nicola.preston@umconnect.umt.edu.

###

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Global Pandemics and Bioterrorism Focus of Mansfield Center Discussion

December 01, 2014

MISSOULA – The outbreak of Ebola in West Africa has raised questions about the global community’s ability to adequately contain and treat a life-threatening pandemic. The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center will host David Hamon, director of Banyan Analytics and a former senior official at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and Alex Philp, founder and president of GCS, to discuss “Global Pandemics and Bioterrorism: Are We Prepared? Implementing Resiliency Through International Exchange, Planning and Capacity Development.”

The program begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, in the Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall at the University of Montana. The event is free and open to the public, but RVSPs are requested at 406-243-2988 or mercedes.becker@umontana.edu.

The recent Ebola outbreak challenged the ability of local governments and international organizations like the World Health Organization to contain highly contagious and fatal diseases. In their talk, Hamon and Philp will examine how a global pandemic could affect Montana, the resiliency of the country’s infrastructure in the face of an outbreak or bioterrorist attack and what the U.S. can do to prepare itself for such an event.

Hamon has 33 years of experience in international security affairs. He spent nearly 10 years with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency working on strategic research and dialogues for the Advanced Systems and Concepts Office. He also has served with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Africa Policy, as director of policy and programs, during which time he worked with the United Nations Peacekeeping Department.

Philp is the founder of GCS, a geoanalytics company that uses cloud, mobile and analytic services to provide critical information for management, defense and health care systems. He launched GCS as a spinout from NASA-funded research and development in advanced geospatial information technology at UM.

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

For more information visit <http://www.umt.edu/mansfield>.

###

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Country Artist Kip Moore to Perform Concert at UM

December 01, 2014

MISSOULA – Country Music Association “New Artist of the Year” nominee Kip Moore will perform at the University of Montana Adams Center on Tuesday, Jan. 27. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for the show will go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at <http://www.griztix.com>, the Adams Center Box Office and all GrizTix locations. Tickets also may be purchased by calling 406-243-4051 during regular business hours. They cost \$35 or \$30, plus applicable service fees.

The Washington Post calls Moore “one of Nashville’s breakout stars” while his album “Up All Night” was the best-selling debut album from any solo male country artist released in 2012 and 2013. He produced three back-to-back number-one singles: “Somethin’ ‘Bout a Truck,” “Beer Money” and “Hey Pretty Girl.”

Moore kicked off his 2014 tour with Lady Antebellum and Tim McGraw, launching his own headlining tour “Up in Smoke” this fall. He also has toured with Eric Church, Brantley Gilbert and Toby Keith.

For more information call Adams Center Executive Director Brad Murphy at 406-243-4261 or email brad.murphy@mso.umt.edu.

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