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June 2015 News

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Multidisciplinary UM Study Finds Air Pollution Relevant to Parkinson’s Disease Risk in Young Urbanites

July 01, 2015

MISSOULA – As scientists continue to research the cause of Parkinson’s disease, an international, collaborative University of Montana study found young children exposed to urban air pollution may have a greater risk of developing it. The study was published in the March issue of the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease & Parkinsonism.

“Air pollution breaks your gastrointestinal barrier, allowing for the entrance of particulate matter directly into your brainstem via the enteric nervous system,” said Dr. Lilian Calderón-Garcidueñas, one of the study’s lead researchers and a professor at UM’s Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience.

The study was titled “The Intestinal Barrier in Air Pollution-Associated Neural Involvement in Mexico City Residents: Mind the Gut, the Evolution of a Changing Paradigm Relevant to Parkinson Disease Risk.” It examined the integrity of tight junctions (structures that keep cells together) in dogs’ small intestines and the presence of autoantibodies.
against these proteins in children residing in one of the most polluted megacities on our continent, Mexico City.

The study found environmental particulate matter damages the integrity of the gastrointestinal tract barrier, impacts neuronal enteric populations and can reach the vagus and the brainstem, putting that body at greater risk for medical conditions involving the brain, including Parkinson's.

“Parkinson’s disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease affecting Americans,” Calderón-Garcidueñas said. “The issue is very important, and this research may provide a fresh insight into Parkinson’s disease pathogenesis and open opportunities for pediatric neuroprotection.”

The researchers involved hope their study generates more interest in Parkinson’s disease prevention.

“Defining the linkage and the health consequences of the brain/gut/immune system interactions in urban children showing already the early hallmarks of Parkinson’s disease ought to be of pressing importance for public health,” Calderón-Garcidueñas said. “Unfortunately, there is a total lack of support for research focusing on Parkinson’s disease prevention and high-risk children, and that is very sad.”

The study is online at http://bit.ly/1NsVpOe. For more information call Calderón-Garcidueñas at 406-243-4785 or email lilian.calderon-garciduenas@umontana.edu.

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Multidisciplinary UM Study Finds Air Pollution Relevant to Parkinson’s Disease Risk in Young Urbanites - UM News - University Of Montana
SpectrUM, SciNation to Host Science Learning Tent at Arlee Celebration Powwow

Missoula – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area and SciNation, its community partner on the Flathead Reservation, will return to the Arlee Celebration with the popular Science Learning Tent on Thursday and Friday, July 2-3.

The annual powwow, which runs Wednesday through Sunday, July 1-5, serves as a cultural highlight for the reservation’s three tribes, as well as for visitors from around the country. The Science Learning Tent will feature interactive exhibits and hands-on activities led by role models in STEM fields and higher education.

Supported this year by the Noyce Foundation, the Science Learning Tent will feature themes that reflect the tribes’ workforce needs. Ecosystem Day on Thursday will include Salish Kootenai College’s Stream Table, spectrUM’s mobile ecoscience exhibits created with the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, and activities led by the Watershed Education Network. Visitors to the exhibit also will have the opportunity to meet with local STEM role models,

Health Day on Friday will feature spectrUM’s traveling exhibits, “Hands on Health” and “Brain: The World inside Your Head.” It will include visits with STEM role models Jera Stewart, a clinical neuropsychologist for the CSKT, Lizzie Catudio-Garrett from spectrUM’s BrainLab, and high-school scholars in the tribes’ Healthcare Warriors program.

“Near-peer” role models from Arlee High School, Ronan High School and spectrUM’s high school Explainers program also will guide participants, and representatives from UM Admissions will provide information and answer questions.

SciNation, which steers spectrUM’s engagement on the Flathead Reservation, is an organization of STEM and education leaders from Tribal Health and Human Services, Ronan Elementary School, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Wildlife Management Program, and Salish Kootenai College.

With SciNation, spectrUM engages with the estimated 6,000 children on the Flathead Reservation through in-school pop-up science museums, a new Science Bytes program that brings hands-on STEM activities to free breakfast and lunch sites during the summer, and exhibits and activities at health fairs, camps and other community events.

With support from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Montana National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, the National Institutes of Health, and the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation, spectrUM’s mobile science program has now visited every K-12 school on the reservation.

In recognition of its innovative, community-based approach to rural and tribal engagement, spectrUM received two national awards in the past year: one from the Simons Foundation and one through the Noyce Foundation’s Bright Lights Community Engagement Awards competition.

Inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, the spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in downtown Missoula. Annually, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans through in-museum and mobile programming. Since 2006, spectrUM has transported exhibits and educators to 71 schools and public libraries in 29 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations.

SpectrUM’s additional sponsors and partners include UM’s Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, the Jane S. Heman Foundation, NISE Network, SciGirls and the Western Montana Area Health Education Center.

In Missoula, the public can visit spectrUM’s museum at 218 E. Front St. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person.

More information about spectrUM’s engagement on the Flathead Reservation is online at http://spectrum.umt.edu/outreach/mosse_k12/CommunityInitiatives/FlatheadIndRes.php.

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UM Chefs Place Second at National Culinary Conference

June 26, 2015

MISSOULA – Four chefs from the University of Montana proved they can out-cook the competition at the 21st Annual Tastes of the World Chef Culinary Conference hosted by the University of Massachusetts Amherst June 7-12. UM Dining’s culinary team won a silver medal after facing off against 22 other culinary teams from across the United States and Canada.

UM Executive Chef Patrick Browne, Executive Sous Chef Tony Martinez, Chef de Cuisine Nate Jerrell and Pastry Chef Lindsay Marshall were tasked with creating a four-course meal with beef flap steak, Arctic char, chicken, beets, oranges, Yukon gold potatoes, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, mango and
red bell peppers.

The UM Dining culinary team created a chicken broth soup with braised chicken thigh and spring vegetables alongside an entree of pan-seared Arctic char on beet and potato risotto, beet green pesto and fried Brussels sprouts. They served it with a platter of grilled flap steak with German potato salad, charred broccoli and a red pepper and mango sauce. For dessert, Marshall created a citrus and brown butter financier pastry with a hazelnut Florentine, strawberry sauce and Chantilly cream.

“We are very proud of our culinary team. Their work reflects highly on our program,” UM Dining Director Mark LoParco said. “Throughout the week our chefs represented UM with pride and distinction. UM Dining continually strives to create innovative recipes that are healthy, sustainable and delicious.”

For more information on the award or UM Dining, call Sam Belanger, UM Dining director of marketing, at 406-243-5089 or email samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Sam Belanger, director of marketing, UM Dining, 406-243-5089, samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.
UM Chefs Place Second at National Culinary Conference - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – University of Montana School of Journalism alumna Melissa Jensen credited her professors after she earned the prestigious E.B. Craney Radio Newscast of the Year Award on June 13.

“The (journalism) school, in my opinion,” Jensen said, “just has such fabulous professors.”

Jensen’s Helena-area radio program, “The Mighty Mo Radio Show Newscast,” was among several UM School of Journalism alumni and student projects recognized during this month’s E.B. Craney Awards Banquet at the Montana Broadcasters Convention in Big Sky.

Jensen, who earned a bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism in 1998 and a master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies 12 years later, attributes the success of journalism school alumni and students largely to the investment professors give their students.

“I felt that they wanted me to succeed, and that they really cared about where we ended up,” Jensen said.
Other UM alumni who received E.B. Craney Awards include Jeanelle Slade, who was named Broadcaster of the Year for her work with the Billings CBS affiliate KTVQ. Dustin Askim of KULR-8 in Billings garnered first place in the Television Spot News category for reporting the story, “Shooting Outside of Billings Clinic,” which chronicled the events surrounding the January death of a wanted man by U.S. marshals.

Second place winners include KPAX’s James Rafferty, who earned recognition in the Television Station Promotion category and in the Television News Enterprise reporting slot. Erin Yost-Miller, also of KPAX, came in second in the Television Weathercaster of the Year competition.

“Montana Journal: 100 and Counting,” meanwhile, produced by UM students Tim Blodgett, Emily Proctor, Don Fisher, Sam Waldorf and Kevin Kenly placed second in the Television Non-Commercial Program of the Year slot.

The Craney Awards constitute only the most recent batch of accolades bestowed upon School of Journalism students and alumni. Earlier this month, recent graduate Madelyn Beck earned second place in the Hearst Journalism Awards National Championships.

On June 6, UM graduate Mackenzie Enich and senior Ed Huberman earned a first-place student award in the 2015 Northwest Regional Emmy Awards for their UM News piece “University Construction Jobs Stimulate the Local Economy.”

For more information on the UM School of Journalism, visit http://jour.umt.edu/.

Contact: Jessica Mayrer, communication and events coordinator, UM School of Journalism, 406-239-1682, jessica.mayrer@umconnect.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana's spectrUM Discovery Area will host one free Random Act of Community day each month, providing open access to its museum for all children and their families. The first Random Act of Community day will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, June 25, at spectrUM's museum, located at 218 E. Front St. in downtown Missoula.

The program, underwritten by Community Medical Center, is just one of several initiatives that will be funded thanks to money raised during spectrUM's Big Night gala on June 12. CMC will fund the free museum days through January, and private donors at the gala pledged additional support to extend the program through May.

In total, the Big Night gala raised $67,317 for spectrUM's Science for All Fund, which works to close opportunity and achievement gaps by ensuring all Montana children can access hands-on science and inspirational role models in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and higher education.
In recent years, the Science for All Fund has awarded $57,188 in scholarships to 10,127 low-income students, teamed up with the Missoula Food Bank to distribute free family memberships to its clients, placed a free “Nano” pop-up exhibit in the Missoula Public Library that reaches more than 300 visitors daily, supported mobile programming in Montana’s rural and tribal communities, and provided free spectrUM passes to the Boys and Girls Club, Full Circle Counseling, the YWCA and other organizations that serve low-income and at-risk youth.

During a surprise webcast at the gala, Ben Wiehe, manager of the Science Festival Alliance at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, announced spectrUM has received an award from the Simons Foundation honoring its community-based approach to STEM engagement, particularly its partnership with SciNation on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The award includes a $20,000 prize, and spectrUM will serve as a national model and mentor for science museums developing similar engagement programs.

Mayor John Engen emceed the live auction, which featured items donated by more than 50 local individuals, organizations and businesses, including MPG Ranch, the Resort at Paws Up, the Loft, Garden City Harvest, UM, Dr. Pete Chiropractic, Ric Hauer, Ray Risho, Coby and Melissa Stone, 12 Missoula restaurants and members of SciNation, spectrUM’s partner on the Flathead Reservation.

Big Night sponsors included Gravity Media Productions, Republic Services, Missoula Federal Credit Union, Carol Williams, 21st Century Materials, the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, Montana NSF EPSCoR, A&E Architects, SciNation, Montana ProAudio, UM’s Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, Beach Transportation and the Silk Road.

Inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, UM’s spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula. Through in-museum and mobile programs, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans annually. Its innovative, community-based approach to STEM engagement garnered honorable mention in the Noyce Foundation’s 2014 Bright Lights award competition.

Since 2006, spectrUM has transported exhibits and educators to 71 schools and public libraries in 29 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations. In total, spectrUM’s mobile science program has served more than 51,000 people, of whom 30 percent are Native American and 75 percent live in rural communities.

In Missoula, the public can visit spectrUM’s museum from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person.

For more information call Holly Truitt, spectrUM director, at 406-243-4872 or email holly.truitt@umontana.edu.

Contact: Holly Truitt, spectrUM Discovery Area director, 406-243-4872, holly.truitt@umontana.edu.
SpectrUM's Big Night Gala Raises $67,317, Celebrates Free Community Days, Award - UM News - University Of Montana
UM News

Montana Newspaper Association Boosts UM Journalism Scholarships

June 19, 2015

MISSOULA – The Montana Newspaper Association is more than doubling the amount of annual scholarship funding it provides to University of Montana School of Journalism students. The organization made the announcement during its June 13 convention and awards ceremony.

“This is just our way of nurturing the future journalists of Montana,” said MNA Executive Director Jim Rickman.

Rickman said providing scholarships to aspiring journalists falls squarely in line with MNA’s mission, which is to advance and sustain Montana’s news publishing industry. In recent years, the organization has provided $2,500 annually for promising UM journalism students.

MNA scholarships include the Pat Burke Memorial Scholarship, in honor of the wife of the late Frank Burke, a longtime publisher of the Glendive Ranger-Review, and the Dean Stone Award, named after UM School of Journalism founder Dean Arthur L. Stone. Beginning in the 2016-17 academic year, MNA will increase its scholarship funding to $6,000.
“The J-school is very grateful for this additional support from our old friends at MNA,” said UM School of Journalism Dean Larry Abramson. “These scholarships are critical as we try to attract the best journalism students and send them off to MNA papers.”

The most recent MNA award winners are Charli White, a photojournalist from Silesia who is entering her senior year. White, who garnered the Pat Burke Memorial Scholarship, said the MNA’s generosity will help her fulfill a dream to study abroad.

The Dean Stone Award, meanwhile, went to Micah Drew, a UM track and cross-country standout and an aspiring sports writer from Boise, Idaho. Drew also is a senior, and after graduating he aims to write for sports and adventure magazines.

For more information on the UM School of Journalism, visit http://jour.umt.edu/.

Contact: Jessica Mayrer, communication and events coordinator, UM School of Journalism, 406-239-1682, jessica.mayrer@umconnect.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Montana World Trade Center at the University of Montana and seven trade delegates recently returned from a weeklong trade mission to Calgary, Alberta, and Vancouver, British Columbia, where they developed sales agreements, cultivated new relationships and explored potential opportunities within the Canadian market.

As a result of the trade mission meetings, Agile Data Solutions of Missoula already has several software demos deployed, while other businesses established key relationships to build new business partners. Agile Data Solutions owner Joel Henry plans to return to Canada within a month to finalize contracts, making the UM technology spinoff officially international.

“The trade mission was fantastic,” Henry said. “Not only the meetings and events during the trip, but also the hands-on assistance MWTC provided to prepare us. We know MWTC will be there for us as we follow up on contracts in this market and explore new markets abroad. What an excellent resource for businesses across our state.”

“Montana had well over half a billion dollars in exports to Canada last year,” MWTC Executive Director Brigitta
Miranda-Freer said. “That number comes from one business relationship and one business deal at a time.”

MWTC collaborated with Gov. Steve Bullock; Montana Department of Commerce Director Meg O’Leary; John Rogers, chief business officer for the state; the U.S. Commercial Service; the Canadian Consulate; UM alumnus Kyle Washington; and many others in planning events designed to maximize business success potential.

In addition to Agile Data Solutions, Montana companies on the mission included Purus of Florence, SmartLam of Whitefish, Montainer Inc. of Missoula, SK Fingerjoint of Libby, U.S. Bank N.A. of Missoula and Town Pump Hotel Group of Billings.

Several trade delegates attended the Global Petroleum Show – one of the world’s largest energy events – June 8-11 in Calgary, while others focused on business-to-business meetings.

“Our goal is to prepare companies and to maximize their probability of success in consummating business transactions,” Miranda-Freer said. “We certainly hope our trade mission delegates were able to initiate quality relationships with Canadian partners that will grow to become mutually profitable business in the years to come.”

MWTC is a licensed World Trade Center and a program of UM that helps Montana businesses establish or strengthen their international commercial capabilities. For more information on the MWTC or the recent trade mission to Canada, call Miranda-Freer at 406-243-6982, email brigitta@mwtc.org or visit http://www.mwtc.org/.

Contact: Brigitta Miranda-Freer, executive director, Montana World Trade Center, 406-243-6982, brigitta@mwtc.org.
June 18, 2015

**POLSON** – Faculty and staff at the University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station invite the public to explore the research facility during several events this summer.

The station will host two free lectures this month, starting with postdoctoral scientist Shawn Devlin’s talk titled “Modeling Flathead Lake: Using 35 Years of Data to Investigate Climate Change, Nutrient Loading and Trophic Interactions” on Thursday, June 25. Chris Frissell, consulting research ecologist and freshwater conservation biologist, will present a lecture titled “Riparian Forests: Ecosystem Science and the Management of Western Watersheds for Freshwater Resource Protection in the Face of Fire” on Monday, June 29. Both lectures will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Elrod Lecture Hall at FLBS.

On Tuesday, July 14, the station staff will hold an afternoon research cruise to one of the Flathead Lake monitoring sites. The three-hour tour will depart from Flathead Lake Boat Tours in Lakeside at 3:15 p.m. and will feature an overview of the lake’s ecology and the FLBS Research and Monitoring Program. It costs $50 per person, with proceeds benefitting the Research and Monitoring Program. Admission includes appetizers, beverages and music by the band 17 Mile. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Tom Bansak at 406-982-3301 ext. 229.
FLBS will host its annual open house from 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5. The event, which is free and open to the public, will give visitors the opportunity to learn about the ecology of Flathead Lake and its watershed, as well as the station and its research. Activities this year include tours of the facilities, boat trips on the station’s research vessel, exhibits on recent research and presentations by FLBS scientists.

The station is located 17.5 miles north of Polson and 14 miles south of Bigfork along Highway 35 on the east shore of Flathead Lake. For more information visit [http://flbs.umt.edu/](http://flbs.umt.edu/) or [https://www.facebook.com/UMFLBS](https://www.facebook.com/UMFLBS).

**Contact:** Tom Bansak, research scientist/development coordinator, UM Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-982-3301 ext. 229, [events@flbs.umt.edu](mailto:events@flbs.umt.edu).
MISSOULA – The former executive director of the Montana Board of Crime Control has been appointed to lead the Montana Safe Schools Center at the University of Montana on an interim basis. A search for a permanent director is underway.

Brooke Marshall, Superior Court administrator for Thurston County, Washington, was hired to replace Matt Taylor, who led the MSSC from 2012 to 2015. Marshall has more than 15 years of experience as an executive manager of public agencies.

“I am thrilled to become part of the University of Montana and to work with our partners across the state and nation to create environments that ensure our children will thrive,” Marshall said.

In her current role, Marshall oversees the daily operations of the Thurston County Superior Court and an annual budget of $5.9 million. As executive director of the Montana Board of Crime Control, she administered a $7.5 million annual budget and worked closely with a board of directors, which included the state attorney general, Supreme Court administrator, tribal governments, local law enforcement agencies and other public representatives.
The Institute for Educational Research and Service, which houses the MSSC and is part of UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, has initiated a national search to fill the position permanently.

“Director Brooke Marshall not only knows the science of school safety, as a national expert she has contributed to the body of evidence of what works,” said IERS Director Rick van den Pol. “In Montana, schools are among the safest places a child can be. I am delighted Brooke is returning to Montana to make our schools even safer.”

Marshall also has experience in grant management specific to school safety, having administered and managed a nationally prominent safe schools and healthy students grant for the Oregon public school systems in Springfield and Eugene. She earned her bachelor’s degree in political science at the University of Oregon and her juris doctor degree at the University of Oregon School of Law.

“Brooke Marshall has the experience, expertise and heart for this vital work,” said Roberta Evans, dean of the PJW College of Education and Human Sciences. “She brings exemplary qualifications to our dynamic leadership team in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences.”

“My mission is to serve our youth,” Marshall said. “By breaking down barriers, connecting people and using research and evidence-based programs, we can achieve this.”

MSSC was established in 2005 by the Montana Board of Regents and the Office of Public Instruction to ensure schools have the latest research-based safety tools. For more information visit http://iers.umt.edu/Montana_Safe_Schools_Center/.

Contact: Rick van den Pol, UM Institute for Educational Research and Service, 406-243-6756, rick.vandenpol@mso.umt.edu; Roberta Evans, dean, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, roberta.evans@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – John Myers, whose music programs on Montana Public Radio ranged from blues and bluegrass to folk, jazz and classic rock ‘n’ roll, died Wednesday, June 10, of colon cancer.

Myers joined Montana Public Radio in 1985 as host of the “Folk Show.” According to MTPR Program Director Michael Marsolek, his vast collection of records and his encyclopedic knowledge of music and lyrics made Myers a natural host and producer for MTPR’s wide variety of music genre programs.

Myers was most famous for his theme-based programs. His 30-year-long playlist archive includes shows on fishing, floods, flowers, fools and rain, rivers and roses, among dozens of others.

A devotee of Martin Luther King Jr., Myers wrote and produced a series of music and spoken word programs honoring King’s legacy.

Marsolek remembers Myers as witty, kind and generous. “John was always willing to substitute for other staffers on a moment's notice,” he said. “He loved sharing music and telling stories about how the music came to be. He had
the backstory on all of them."

His health failing, Myers’ last day on the air was March 26. MTPR plans a series of themed tribute shows in July. Remembrances can be shared online at http://mtpr.org/ or https://www.facebook.com/mtpublicradio.

Memorial service plans are pending.

Contact: William Marcus, director, UM Broadcast Media Center, 406-243-4154, william.marcus@umontana.edu; Michael Marsolek, program director, Montana Public Radio, 406-243-4096, michael.marsolek@mtpr.org.
UM Survey Finds Montanans Like to Bicycle

June 11, 2015

MISSOULA – Forty-six percent of Montana adults 18 and older bicycled in the past 12 months, according to a recent study conducted by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana. The
UM Survey Finds Montanans Like to Bicycle - UM News - University Of Montana

study surveyed 8,435 Montana residents January through March 2015.

According to ITTR Director Norma Nickerson, bicycling is fast becoming more than just a sport taken up by a few hardy souls. The sport has made recent headlines by CNN, The Economist, Business Insider and others who have called “cycling the new golf,” referring to doing business while cycling rather than on the golf course.

“In Montana we may not have seen that switch from golf to bicycling as of yet, but there are plenty of recreational bicyclists who enjoy a good ride,” Nickerson said.

In the ITTR study, 62 percent of bicyclists reported riding within their community and 48 percent indicated riding on a paved path. Only 12 percent of respondents said they rode on highways, which may be because just 13 percent of Montanans currently believe bicycling on
The study found that approximately two-thirds of Montana residents, whether they have bicycled or not in the past 12 months, are not familiar with Montana bicycling laws. “The lack of knowledge of bicycling laws is a bit of concern,” Nickerson said.

Bicycling is most popular during the summer months, when 97 percent of Montana cyclists say they ride. But, there are a hardy 11 percent of Montanans who ride in the winter months, including 20 percent of adults in Montana who commute to work on a bike.

According to bicycle advocacy organization PeopleForBikes, bike commuting in the U.S. grew 47 percent during the past decade and is expected to continue to grow.

In late 2013, ITRR conducted a bicycle tourism study, which found that multiday bicycling in Montana brings in money to small communities around the entire state. This is a trend nationwide.
From 1990 to 2009, the number of U.S. bike trips more than doubled from 1.8 billion to 4 billion trips per year, according to PeopleForBikes.

The full ITTR report can be accessed online at [http://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs/314/](http://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs/314/). All information and reports published by ITRR are available online at [http://www.itrr.umt.edu](http://www.itrr.umt.edu).

**Contact:** Norma Nickerson, director, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, 406-243-2328, norma.nickerson@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Two dozen high school juniors and seniors from across Montana will explore health care careers during the annual Missoula MedStart camp Sunday through Thursday, June 14-18, on the University of Montana campus.

Sponsored by the Western Montana Area Health Education Center at UM, MedStart is a weeklong immersion program designed for potential first-generation college students from rural areas who plan to pursue careers in the health sciences.

A highlight of the program this year will be a dinner with residents of Village Senior Residence on Wednesday, June 17. Participants will have a chance to learn about first dates, first cars and more from what young students perceive as the “old days” of the mid-1900s.

“We really look forward to the students’ visit,” said Kathryn Beaty, Village Senior Residence executive director. “We know it will be mutually beneficial – we learn so much from generation to generation. To have the young people here allows our residents to learn about all sorts of new things.”
Martha Robertson, Western Montana AHEC program coordinator, said the visit will give the future health care workforce a closer look at senior care in Montana, a sector that continues to grow as the state’s population ages.

Other activities will include tours of Rocky Mountain Laboratories and GlaxoSmithKline in Hamilton; a day of symposiums in chemistry, medical technology, environmental health, social work and psychology at UM; animal organ dissections led by neuroscience graduate students and medical residents of the Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana; a full day of job shadows at 12 different facilities in Missoula; a wilderness first-aid seminar hosted by Aerie Backcountry Medicine; and college readiness and financial aid seminars.

Missoula MedStart is one of four annual MedStart programs hosted by Montana AHEC. Other host sites include Billings, Butte and Great Falls. Since 2007, the Montana AHEC offices have offered MedStart summer camps to provide local high school students who may not otherwise have the opportunity a chance to explore health careers, learn about college life and realize the possibilities of pursuing higher education. The goal is to provide students with the support and resources needed to enter and succeed in the health care industry. Since 2012, 75 students have attended Missoula MedStart; of the 68 seniors who completed the program, 94 percent enrolled in college.

As communities across Montana continue to struggle with creating and sustaining an adequate health care professional workforce, the Montana AHECs continue to address the shortages through a “grow your own” approach. This approach focuses on attracting, educating and training students from high-need areas with the goal of having them return to these areas to practice.

Missoula MedStart is made possible through contributions and support from the Frontier Medicine Better Health Partnership, Montana GEAR UP, Salish Kootenai College, PacificSource Health Plans, Providence Health & Services, Kalispell Regional Medical Center, Clark Fork Valley Hospital, St. Luke Community Healthcare and Elks Lodge No. 2231 in Libby.

Western Montana AHEC is a not-for-profit organization funded by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. It operates as part of the UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences.

For more information call Robertson at 406-243-4746 or email martha.robertson@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Martha Robertson, program coordinator, Western Montana Area Health Education Center at UM, 406-243-4746, martha.robertson@mso.umt.edu.
High School Students Explore Health Careers at MedStart Camp at UM - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – In an effort to increase the number of STEM degree recipients participating in Montana’s workforce, the state of Montana now offers $1,000 scholarships to Montana high school students majoring in science, technology, engineering, math or health care.

The STEM Scholarship Program provides an incentive for Montana high school students to prepare for, enter into and complete degrees in postsecondary fields related to STEM and health care. The Montana Legislature set aside $400,000 for the scholarship program this year.

“The University of Montana is a science powerhouse,” said UM Provost Perry Brown. “From our physics program, whose graduates go onto the top graduate schools in the country, to having the most productive ecology faculty in North America, UM offers unparalleled opportunities for Montana high school graduates to go on to world-class science programs.”

As a leader in the sciences, UM has built new scientific initiatives around brain research, genomics and big-data analysis. At every level, UM students have opportunities to gain hands-on experiences and work side-by-side with
faculty engaged in scientific research in both the physical and natural sciences.

“There are as many resources and possibilities at UM as at a much bigger university,” said UM student Carly Meek. “But because it’s smaller here, you get more interaction. You get more exposure.”

The following UM mountain campus programs qualify for the scholarship:

- Athletic Training
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Communicative Sciences and Disorders
- Computer Science
- Ecological Restoration
- Environmental Studies
- Forestry
- Geology
- Geographic Information Systems
- Geosciences
- Interdisciplinary Geosciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Mathematics
- Medical Technology
- Microbiology
- Pharmacy
- Physics
- Pre-Engineering
- Premedical sciences
- Prenursing
- Prepharmacy
- Pre-Professional Physical Therapy
- Resource Conservation
- Wildlife Biology

The following Missoula College UM programs qualify for the scholarship:

- Computer-Aided Design
- Computer-Support Specialist
- Computer-System Technician
- Computer Technology
- Electronics Technology
- Energy Technology
- Information Technology
- Medical Assisting
- Medical-Information Technology
- Medical Reception
New Scholarship Program Aims to Increase STEM Degree Recipients - UM News - University Of Montana

- Pharmacy Technology
- Practical Nursing
- Pre-Electronics
- Technology
- Pre-Information Technology
- Pre-Nursing
- Pre-Pharmacy
- Technology
- Pre-Radiologic Technology
- Pre-Respiratory Therapy Tech
- Pre-Surgical Technology
- Radiologic Technology
- Registered Nursing
- Respiratory Care
- Surgical Technology

“By 2018, 92 percent of traditional STEM jobs will require at least some post-secondary education and training,” Brown said. “We are thrilled to be able to offer Montana high school students a wide array of programs that prepare them for a career in a STEM field. This scholarship program is an added incentive.”

For more information, including details on the online application process and eligibility requirements, visit http://www.mus.edu/Prepare/Pay/Scholarships/STEM_Scholarship.asp. The deadline to apply is July 15.

Contact: Perry Brown, UM provost and vice president for academic affairs, 406-243-4689, perry.brown@umontana.edu.
New Scholarship Program Aims to Increase STEM Degree Recipients - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Seven University of Montana graduate students recently were awarded Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics Graduate Student Fellowships for the summer of 2016.

Five graduate students earned summer fellowships of up to $6,000 and two graduate students earned summer fellowships of up to $3,000.

Through the summer fellowship, CBSD aims to help UM’s departments grow and sustain their graduate programs by subsidizing existing teaching assistant positions, which do not provide summer stipends.

The summer 2016 Fellowship selection is:

- **Adam Drobish**: cellular, molecular and microbial biology
- **Lauren Foltz**: cellular, molecular and microbial biology
- **Alexander Nord**: computer science and cellular, molecular and microbial biology
- **William Penny**: biochemistry and biophysics
• Jim Reed: cellular, molecular and microbial biology
• Denis Shchepakin: math and neurobiology
• Xiaobo Wang: cellular, molecular and microbial biology

For more information on CBSD, visit http://cas.umt.edu/departments/cbsd/.

Contact: Cathy Jo Beecher, program coordinator, UM Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics, 406-243-6003, cathy.beecher@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Rosalyn LaPier, assistant professor of environmental studies at the University of Montana, recently was appointed a research associate at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

Research associates are senior experts in their field who maintain a formal scholarly affiliation and academic appointment with the Smithsonian. They are given access to Smithsonian collections and facilities. In exchange, LaPier will bring her own outside expertise and knowledge to the Smithsonian, which includes more than 25 years of
experience working with Blackfeet elders researching ethnobotany and traditional ecological knowledge.

The appointment will last at least three years and may be renewed.

“Academic appointments at the Smithsonian afford the opportunity for learning, study and research through our unparalleled collections, experts and facilities,” said Eric Woodard, Smithsonian director of fellowships and internships.

LaPier also has worked to revitalize and preserve Native American languages the past 25 years. She will continue her research on ethnobotany, traditional ecological knowledge and Blackfeet religious beliefs of nature and the environment at the Smithsonian and within traditional Blackfeet territory in the U.S. and Canada.

JoAllyn Archambault, National Museum of Natural History American Indian director, nominated LaPier for the appointment. NMNH Director Kirk Johnson and Acting Associate Director for Science Richard Vari confirmed the appointment.

LaPier holds a doctorate degree in history from UM. She is one of four Native American professors at a research university in the U.S. in an environmental studies/sciences department. She is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe and also is Métis.

Contact: Rosalyn LaPier, assistant professor, UM Environmental Studies Program, 406-243-6787, rosalyn.lapier@mso.umt.edu.
UM Tourism Researchers Measure Visitors, Spending in 2014

June 05, 2015

MISSOULA – The Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana estimates 10.9 million nonresident travelers spent $3.9 billion in Montana in 2014. The visitors directly supported more than 38,000 Montana jobs and indirectly supported an additional $1.9 billion of economic activity and 15,000 more jobs, according to the study.

While the number of
individual travelers was down 1 percent in 2014, the number of visitor groups to Montana increased 1 percent from 2013, indicating a slightly smaller visitor group size, according to Kara Grau, ITRR assistant director of economic analysis.

Five million visitors, or 46 percent, spent time in Montana during the third quarter of 2014, July through September. Those travelers spent more than $1.9 billion total, accounting for 40 percent of 2014’s traveler spending. Travel groups spent an average $163.20 per day during those summer months.

During the first and second quarters of 2014, traveler groups spent an average $163.77 and $152.93 per day respectively and totaled $441 million and $915 million. Fourth quarter spending averaged $142.25 per day, totaling nearly $595 million.

One third of the 10.9 million travelers to Montana reported they were in the state primarily for vacation and another 16 percent were visiting friends or relatives. Visitors in Montana for business accounted for 14 percent of travelers, while 29 percent of travelers were passing through the state primarily for the purpose of reaching another destination. Three percent of travelers said they came to Montana to shop.

For more information about the 2014 nonresident visitation and spending estimates, visit http://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs/313/. All information and reports published by ITRR are available online at http://www.itrr.umt.edu.
Contact: Norma Nickerson, director, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, 406-243-2328, norma.nickerson@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Musician Taj Mahal canceled his July 22 concert previously scheduled at the Dennison Theatre at the University of Montana. UM Productions will refund all tickets purchased.

“For decades, Taj Mahal has been committed to giving fans the most of himself through music, both on stage and off,” his promoter wrote in a statement to UM Productions. “This has been his love and his life and it is with regret that the Maestro finds it necessary, at this time, to take a much-needed break from the demands of his constant touring schedule. This brief hiatus will allow the time to recharge his health and vitality.”

There is no current makeup date for the Missoula concert. Ticket purchasers who used a credit card will be automatically refunded. Those who used cash or check should contact the Adams Center Box Office at 406-243-4051.

“Taj promises to be back in August with refreshed and renewed health allowing him to continue his high-energy performances well into the future,” the statement said. “He hopes that you, his friends and fans, will understand. Taj looks forward to seeing you all as soon as he is back on the road.”
For more information call Chanelle Paakkonen, UM Productions marketing coordinator, at 406-243-4719 or email marketing@umproductions.org.

**Contact:** Chanelle Paakkonen, UM Productions marketing coordinator, 406-243-4719, marketing@umproductions.org.
A study completed by the University of Montana’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research examined the economic impact of the proposed Riverfront Triangle project on the Missoula downtown area. The study was conducted by BBER Director Patrick Barkey.

The study found that the development project, which includes the addition of a “branded” 175-room hotel, a 60-room boutique hotel, two restaurants, 200 rental units, 50 condominium units, 50,000 square feet of office space and 35,000 square feet of retail space would add 165 net jobs to the area by 2025, along with $9.5 million in additional annual income and $8.2 million in disposable personal income.

The study results do not include the impact of the proposed 23,000- to 35,000-square-foot convention center planned for the development. Those impacts were studied separately by Conventions Sports & Leisure International,
The UM study was supported by the Hotel Fox Partners.

BBER is a leading collector of primary data that provides analysis of the business, economic and social science sectors in Montana. The bureau has provided information about Montana’s state and local economies for more than 50 years. For more information, visit http://www.bber.umt.edu.

Contact: Rob Van Driest, marketing director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, rob.vandriest@business.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Flathead Valley residents now have the opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Montana without leaving the Flathead Valley.

Through a partnership between UM and Flathead Valley Community College, UM is now accepting applications for students who wish to take third- and fourth-year elementary education courses via a combination of distance-learning and face-to-face classes taught by UM faculty on the FVCC campus in Kalispell this fall.

Students will engage in classroom experiences with tenure-track instructors from the nationally accredited Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. Students in the program will earn the same bachelor’s degree as students physically located on the main UM campus, without the financial burden of travel, relocation or residency.

“This partnership provides members of our community a new, affordable opportunity to pursue their dreams of becoming teachers right here in northwest Montana,” said FVCC President Jane Karas. “We appreciate this collaboration with the University of Montana and the doors it will open for the future teachers of our community.”
FVCC students who have completed the first two years of study in elementary education are eligible to apply for admission. The program also allows in-district FVCC students to complete their first two years of college at FVCC’s affordable in-district tuition rates and then transfer those credits to UM and complete their bachelor’s degree in elementary education, all on the FVCC campus.

“This is such an incredible opportunity for our University, Flathead Valley Community College and the education community in western Montana,” said Roberta Evans, dean of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. “The service provided to students and teachers across our region will be profound, and we could not be happier to partner with FVCC in this very meaningful way.”

The application deadline is July 15. Details are online at http://www.coehs.umt.edu/fvcc. Jayna Lutz, academic adviser at the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, will help students with the application process, including program prerequisite requirements and financial aid options.

For more information call Lutz at 406-243-6170 or email jayna.lutz@umontana.edu.

Contact: Jayna Lutz, academic adviser, UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, 406-243-6170, jayna.lutz@umontana.edu.
UM’s Blue Mountain Observatory to Host Free Public Star-Gazing Events

June 04, 2015

MISSOULA – Explore planets, nebulae, star clusters and distant galaxies during seven upcoming free public observing nights at the Blue Mountain Observatory. The events are family-friendly, and children are welcome.

Public observing nights this summer are scheduled for the following Fridays: June 12, July 10 and 17, Aug. 7 and 14, and Sept. 4 and 11. Attendees are asked to reserve a free ticket for each person in their group via Eventbrite at http://bit.ly/1KOSelu.

The observatory, located atop Blue Mountain at an elevation of 6,300 feet, is operated by the University of Montana. Astronomers will be on hand at all events to discuss what’s being viewed through the telescopes, point out constellations, show attendees how to find interesting celestial objects with the naked eye or a pair of binoculars, and discuss recent astronomical discoveries.

Observing begins about an hour after sunset, and organizers recommend bringing warm clothes for cool evenings and a flashlight for the walk from the observatory to the parking lot. To ensure the public observation nights remain safe and pleasurable for all, smoking and alcohol are not allowed.
For more information on the observatory, directions and a map, visit http://cas.umt.edu/physics/Blue_Mountain_Observatory/. Viewing nights will be canceled if the sky is cloudy or thunderstorms threaten. Before heading to the observatory, call 406-243-4299 for weather and cancellation updates.

Contact: Diane Friend, lecturer, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy, 406-243-4299, diane.friend@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Brock Tessman will become the next dean of the Davidson Honors College at the University of Montana.

UM Provost Perry Brown recently announced that Tessman accepted the position. Tessman, a political scientist who most recently served the University of Georgia as associate director of the Center for the Study of Global Issues and director of graduate programs in the UGA Department of International Affairs, was selected for the position after an extensive national search.

Tessman will begin his new duties mid-July. He replaces James McKusick, who served as the DHC dean from July 2005 to March 2015.
“I have often dreamt about the opportunity to lead a vibrant honors college within a large public university,” Tessman said. “It requires no hyperbole for me to say that this is my dream job. I look forward to working with students, staff, faculty, campus leaders, alumni and other key stakeholders in order to build on the existing excellence of the Davidson Honors College and ensure that no Montana high school student need ever leave this state because a superior liberal arts education is available elsewhere.”

“Brock Tessman is an engaging educator who will bring strong teaching, scholarship and administrative skills to the Davidson Honors College,” Brown said. “The combination of skills he developed at the University of Georgia are exactly what we desired when we began the search for the college’s new dean. He will be a wonderful addition to the campus.”

Tessman is a highly acclaimed teacher and scholar who has won numerous awards during his tenure at UGA. Since 2009, he has consistently been honored by the university. Already in 2015 he earned two awards from UGA: the Student Government Association Professor Recognition Award and the Center for Teaching & Learning “Teacher of the Week” award.

In 2007, he wrote “International Relations in Action: A World Politics Simulation” and currently is working on a book that addresses how the process of demographic decline influences foreign policy agendas.

Tessman earned his bachelor’s degree in international relations from Brown University. He earned a doctorate in political science and a master’s degree in international affairs from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

For more information call Brown at 406-243-4689 or email perry.brown@umontana.edu.

Contact: Perry Brown, UM provost and vice president for academic affairs, 406-243-4689,