September 2015 news releases

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MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s 2015 Math Day will begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 2, in the Gallagher Business Building.

Math Day is a one-day event for students in grades 8-12 who enjoy learning mathematics, working through puzzles and solving problems. Running the approximate length of a school day, Math Day offers a variety of hands-on workshops about topics that go beyond the classroom, including knots, geometric solids, combinatorics, cryptography and more. A panel on how mathematics is used in science will cap off the event.

Students are invited to come on their own or with their teachers, and teachers are encouraged to bring classes on a field trip to the event, which is sponsored by Missoula County Public Schools. Students and teachers also are invited to participate in the Missoula Math Circle, which meets at 3:30 p.m. Thursdays throughout the fall semester; remote participation is possible.

For more information about Math Day or the Missoula Math Circle, visit http://www.cas.umt.edu/mathday/ or email mathcircle@mso.umt.edu.
Contact: Jenny McNulty, associate dean, UM College of Humanities and Sciences, 406-243-2632, mcnulty@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Working as an information systems technology consultant can be fast-paced and fascinating, but somewhat mysterious to students who are pondering going into the profession, according to David Firth, professor of management information systems at the University of Montana School of Business Administration. From 2:30 to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, Firth will take his students to Advanced Technology Group Missoula Solutions Center to demystify just what technology consultants do on a day-to-day basis.

Up to 75 students from UM’s School of Business Administration and the Montana Information Systems Association will head downtown for an onsite visit to learn how the 60-plus technology consultants at ATG spend their days. After the presentation, students are invited to stay and network at “Club MSC” and learn about the work hard/play hard company culture. Firth has taken his students to visit ATG once a semester for the past three years.

“Sometimes it’s hard for students to see outside the classroom,” Firth said. “It’s easy to get caught up in homework, intramural sports and volunteer activities. Visiting a technology company can be transformative.”

When Firth’s students see young professionals a year or two out of college doing work for clients throughout the...
world, they often have a moment of “self-actualization,” he said.

“They can see themselves in the consultants’ shoes,” he said. “Students think, ‘he or she may be shorter or taller – or have blond hair instead of brown – but they’re not that different from me. I could be a technology consultant, too.’”

ATG has grown rapidly since it opened the Missoula office with a couple of employees in 2011. Out of more than 60 employees, over half are fairly recent graduates from the UM. Located in the historic Studebaker Building, ATG is a high-tech firm that does business with multimillion to multibillion dollar companies throughout the world – including CenturyLink, Atlassian, Sungard, Yodle, Concur, Constant Contact, InterCall and many others. ATG’s headquarters are in Kansas City, with offices in Missoula, Denver, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Dallas. Missoula now is the largest office at ATG.

The UM-ATG partnership has been instrumental in growing the Missoula tech company, according to Tom Stergios, vice president of ATG Missoula Solutions Center.

“It's a great partnership where ATG recruits the best and the brightest from the University of Montana and hires graduates who have the opportunity to deliver world-class consulting to national and international clients from Missoula, Montana,” Stergios said. “Montana graduates don't have to leave the Missoula Valley and head to Silicon Valley to find fast-paced, high-paying technology jobs.”

According to Larry Gianchetta, dean of UM’s School of Business Administration, “ATG is an example of a high-growth technology company that provides an opportunity for students to stay home after they graduate and earn a salary that is competitive nationally. Tom and I both are very proud that a high percentage of ATG’s workforce are University of Montana graduates.”

Being able to visit a consulting firm as an undergraduate is important, Stergios said. After college graduation, Stergios signed on with Accenture, a multinational technology company, without ever having been in a consulting firm before.

“It was all a mystery to me,” Stergios said. “I made a good decision but not an informed decision.”

For more information about the onsite visit to ATG, email Firth at david.firth@umontana.edu or call 406-243-5979 or email Stergios at tom.stergios@atginfo.com or call 406-546-1242.

Contact: Shannon Furniss, editor, UM School of Business Administration, 406-360-7846, shannon.furniss@mso.umt.edu; David Firth, professor of management information systems, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-5979, david.firth@umontana.edu; Tom Stergios, vice president, Advanced Technology Group, 406-546-1242, tom.stergios@atginfo.com.
UM Students to Visit High-Tech Company in Downtown Missoula - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – An exhibition titled “Every Woman Matters: Portraits of Montana Women Living with Disabilities” will be shown Saturday, Oct. 3, in Miles City as part of Pink Night Out, an event to celebrate breast cancer survivors and new health care imaging techniques.

Pink Night Out, sponsored by Holy Rosary Healthcare, starts at 5:30 p.m. at Miles Community College Centra, located at 2715 Dickinson St. The doors open for the event at 4 p.m., and it will include hors d’oeuvres, prizes, a fashion show and more. For tickets or more information, visit http://www.holyrosaryhealthcare.org/ or call 406-233-4053.

The EWM exhibit installation features black-and-white portraits of 12 Montana women with physical disabilities. Some of them are breast cancer survivors, and all are role models and advocates. The portraits, taken by internationally acclaimed portrait photographer Steven Begleiter, are augmented by a multimedia video project produced by University of Montana School of Journalism students and UM Professor Jeremy Lurgio. A grant from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure’s Montana Affiliate supported portrait production.
The exhibit is part of the Right to Know campaign, a family of health promotion materials designed to increase awareness of breast cancer among women with physical disabilities and encourage those women to get screened. The Montana Disability and Health Program, a partnership of UM's Rural Institute and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, was one of four state programs funded to implement the Right to Know campaign in 2007.

In 2009, as part of campaign efforts, the group developed the Montana Mammography Directory based on results of a study of Montana's mammography facilities. The directory provides information on hours of operation, bus routes, average costs, available services and accessibility. The information helps patients and mammography center staff schedule successful mammograms. The 2015 directory is available at http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/blog/?page_id=1235.

Those who wish to host an Every Woman Matters installation should call Meg Ann Traci, Montana Disability and Health Program project director, at 406-243-4956 or email meg.traci@mso.umt.edu. They also can get more information by calling Helen Russette, UM Rural Institute program coordinator, at 406-243-4860 or emailing helen.russette@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Meg Ann Traci, project director, Montana Disability and Health Program of Montana DPHHS and the UM Rural Institute, 406-243-4956, meg.traci@mso.umt.edu; Helen Russette, UM Rural Institute program coordinator, 406-243-4860, helen.russette@mso.umt.edu.
UM News

UM Dining Employees Win NACUFS President’s Award

September 29, 2015

MISSOULA – Ray Merseal and Gail Peters of University of Montana Dining were named the recipients of the National Association of Colleges and Universities Food Service Continental Region President’s Award on Sept. 22 for their outstanding performance as conference chairs of the 2015 NACUFS Continental Regional Conference held at UM in April.

As hospitality committee chair, Merseal organized all transportation, hotel arrangements and logistics for 200 conference attendees. Peters served as chair of the showcase and sponsorship committees.

“Gail generated significant revenue for the Continental Region by reaching out to food and equipment vendors and securing sponsorships for events and showcase displays,” said Byron Drake, NACUFS Continental Region president and regional conference chair. “She was recognized nationally as setting the bar high for an excellent showcase from our industry partners. Ray also was recognized by industry colleagues for setting the standard of performance very high for conference hospitality.”

Merseal and Peters both manage popular UM Dining venues: Merseal manages the Food Court and Peters
manages the Corner Store.

Contact: Sam Belanger, UM Dining director of marketing, 406-243-5089, samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Experts in natural resources and environmental law from around the country will converge at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana this week for the 36th Biennial Public Land Law Conference.

The theme of this year’s conference, slated for Thursday and Friday, Oct. 1-2, is “Transcending Boundaries: Achieving Success in Cooperative Management of Natural Resources.” It will feature a keynote address by Hilary Tompkins, solicitor for the U.S. Department of the Interior, at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, in the University Center Ballroom.

The conference also will include discussion panels on the topics of water resources, wildlife management, and energy and climate change. A complete schedule is available online at http://scholarship.law.umt.edu/pllsymposium/2015PLLC/2015_schedule.pdf.

The conference is free and open to the public, but attorneys attending to receive continuing legal education credits must pay $125.
For more information, call Hannah Cail, conference editor, at 406-243-6568 or email hannah.cail@umontana.edu.

Contact: Hannah Cail, conference editor, 406-243-6568, hannah.cail@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The Creative Writing Program at the University of Montana is accepting submissions for the 2016 Merriam-Frontier Award.

The annual writing competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at UM during fall semester 2015. The award was established by H.G. Merriam, UM professor of English and creative writing from 1919 to 1954, and consists of a $500 prize and publication of the winning entry as a chapbook.

Submissions are limited to one per student and must include a cover page with the title of the manuscript, student’s name, email, phone number and address. All entries must be delivered to Liberal Arts Building Room 133 by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16.

The manuscripts will be judged by a committee of local writers. A winner will be announced Friday, Feb. 5, 2016, and will be invited to give a public reading.

Entries must be previously unpublished works that qualify in one of the following categories:
Merriam-Frontier Writing Competition Open to UM Students - UM News - University Of Montana

- Poetry: 20 to 25 poems
- Fiction: two or more stories (40 to 60 double-spaced pages)
- Creative nonfiction: two or more essays (40 to 60 double-spaced pages)

Frontier, later titled Frontier and Midland, was a distinguished quarterly journal founded and edited by Merriam and published at UM from 1920 to 1939. Contributors included then-emerging talents Wallace Stegner, A.B. Guthrie Jr., William Saroyan, Dorothy Johnson, John Mason Brown, Weldon Kees, Thomas McGrath and many others. A particular strength of the journal was its frequent publication of work by young authors, a tradition the Merriam-Frontier Award honors and continues.

More information is available online at http://www.hs.umt.edu/creativewriting/.

Contact: Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Guests will enjoy silent and live auctions, gourmet food and fine beverages Friday, Oct. 9, at the University of Montana Creative Writing Program Writers’ Fall Opus.

The seventh annual event, hosted by UM English alumnus Kevin Head, will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Florence Building Governor’s Room, located at 111 N. Higgins Ave.

“The Writers’ Fall Opus promises an exceptional evening of fine spirits and great items at auction – from art to Amish quilts, from rare first editions to stunning jewelry – all to support UM’s creative writers,” said Judy Blunt, who organizes the event and teaches nonfiction at UM.

Auction items can be viewed on the UM Creative Writing Program’s website at http://www.hs.umt.edu/creativewriting/.

Tickets cost $40 per person or $75 per couple and are available at the door. All proceeds benefit the UM Creative Writing Program’s literary journals, the visiting writers series and student scholarships. Attendees must be 21 or
To learn more about the Creative Writing Program and the Writers' Fall Opus, call Karin Schalm, program coordinator, at 406-243-5267, email karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu or visit http://www.hs.umt.edu/creativewriting/.

Contact: Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Mansfield Center at the University of Montana is seeking six Montana sports professionals to serve as citizen ambassadors in a youth sports diplomacy program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The exchange entails an all-expense-paid, two-week exchange in Laos in March 2016, and the opportunity to work with sports professionals from Laos traveling to Montana later that year.

Funded by the SportsUnited Division of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. State Department, the Mansfield Center project uses sport to support underserved populations in Laos, including ethnic minorities and youth with disabilities. The team from Montana will draw from its expertise to share ways that sports can play a role in youth development at the grassroots level, while promoting technical proficiency among coaches, administrators and officials. The program will help build teamwork and self-discipline in youth that can lead to success in other aspects of their lives.

The Montana team will experience both professional and cultural activities during its Laos exchange. While working with K-12 schools and associations supporting youth, the group also will learn about the culture and history of Laos by traveling to the capital city of Vientiane and to the northern mountainous region featuring the mysterious Plain of
“Given unique constraints in Laos, sports provide an ideal vehicle through which to enhance cross-cultural understanding,” said Deena Mansour, Mansfield Center program director. “This project helps youth develop important leadership skills and achieve academic success while promoting respect for diversity and developing understanding of environmental issues. Our program reaches both youth as well as those who design and manage youth sports programs, with a focus on soccer, traditional native games and adaptive sports.”

The Mansfield Center was selected to implement this program in part because of its emphasis on sport and the environment. Sports activities have the power to unite people around projects that can positively influence the environment and local communities. Montana participants will engage youth and youth influencers in the practices of environmental sustainability through programs addressing clean water, conservation, recycling and other key issues.

Though greatly separated by distance, Montana and Laos have a surprising number of commonalities. Both are landlocked, feature rugged, mountainous terrain and share industries, including agriculture, forestry, electricity generation and mining. Both have environmental concerns related to water, deforestation, eco-tourism and recycling. Each is home to significant communities of indigenous peoples.

Laos is the most heavily bombed country, per capita, in history. From 1964 to 1973, the U.S. conducted massive aerial bombardment in Laos to disrupt North Vietnamese supply routes, dropping more than 2 million tons of bombs. An estimated 30 percent failed to explode, resulting in the world’s largest contamination from unexploded ordnance. Villagers regularly are injured by accidental contact; 40 percent of those disabled are youth.

“Montana is also uniquely tied to this region because of the work of smokejumpers in Laos during the war,” Mansour said. “As a result, the Mansfield Center found the program theme of supporting youth with disabilities to be particularly relevant.”

The Mansfield Center is an established partner in SportsUnited programming, having created a similar exchange in China in 2014. China traveler and Paxson Elementary School health and wellness teacher Glenn Moffatt said, “These programs are a unique opportunity to connect youth across the world. For the China exchange, Paxson kids raised $570 to buy sports equipment for a partner school. This fits right in with preparing our kids to compete in a global economy and build mutual understanding between such different cultures.”

Sports diplomacy has emerged as an integral part of efforts to build relations between the U.S. and other nations. This type of diplomacy uses the universal passion for sports as a way to transcend linguistic and sociocultural differences, and bring people together. Participation in sports teaches leadership, teamwork and communication skills that help young people succeed in all areas of their lives.

The SportsUnited Division was created to increase dialogue and cultural understanding between people around the world through sports. The division’s use of sports as a platform exposes foreign participants to American culture while providing them with an opportunity to establish links with U.S. sports professionals and peers. In turn, Americans learn about foreign cultures and the challenges young people from other countries face today. SportsUnited has involved thousands of people from over 100 countries in sports exchanges. The Mansfield Center is the sole recipient of SportsUnited grants in Montana.
Sports diplomacy is one of many ways the U.S. government follows U.S. law as regulated by the Fulbright Hays Act of 1961. The act requires the U.S. government to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange, and thus to assist in the development of peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world.

The SportsUnited grant is one of seven State Department grants run by the Mansfield Center to benefit our community, including the American Youth Leadership Program funding the travel of Montana high school students and teachers to Thailand, and the Professional Fellows Program supporting an exchange of professionals in NGO development.

“These programs help further the Mansfield Center’s mandate to engage people from across our state in global connections,” Mansour said.

UM’s Mansfield Center promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield (1903-2001) and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. The center houses programs that focus on the peoples and cultures of modern Asia and ethics in public affairs – the core interests and hallmarks of Sen. Mansfield’s career.

For more information on applying to become part of the exchange, call Mansour at 406-243-2713 by Friday, Oct. 9. For background information on the program, visit http://eca.state.gov/programs-initiatives/sports-diplomacy or http://umt.edu/mansfield.

Contact: Deena Mansour, associate director, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2713, deena.mansour@mso.umt.edu.
UM Foundation Honors Donors with Prestigious Award

September 25, 2015

**MISSOULA, Montana** – The University of Montana Foundation awarded the Order of the Grizzly, its highest honor, on Sept. 24. Suzanne and Bruce Crocker of Palo Alto, California, and Terry Payne of Missoula are the 2015 recipients and were honored at the UM Foundation’s President’s Club and Heritage Society Dinner.

“This award is one small way for us to recognize those who have given us so much,” said Shane Giese, president and CEO of the UM Foundation. “Suzanne, Bruce and Terry have been incredibly generous with their time, expertise and resources over the years.”

The Order of the Grizzly recognizes those who have made a significant impact on UM through their leadership and philanthropy. This year’s recipients are shining examples.

In April 2014, the Crockers established the Suzanne and Bruce Crocker Distinguished Director Fund in support of the Montana Museum of Art and Culture. Over the past decade, Payne was instrumental in the creation of both The Payne Family Native American Center and the Elouise Cobell Land and Culture Institute. He also supports a variety of other campus units, including the School of Business Administration and Missoula College. In addition to their...
financial contributions, all three recipients have been trustees of the Foundation and active volunteers around campus.

“What both Bruce and I have valued in our work and connection with the University is the opportunity to have an impact on the institution and its students,” Suzanne said. “At UM, we feel like the results of our time and philanthropy have a direct, beneficial effect, which is truly rewarding. That is why we are so committed to helping find a home for the University’s outstanding art collection – so that it may be studied and enjoyed by both students and the community.”

Bruce recently retired after more than 30 years in the high-tech industry, including venture investing, general management and investment banking. Suzanne, a Kalispell native and 1964 UM graduate, had a long and varied career in Silicon Valley as a marketing and communications executive for technology companies. The couple raised two children, Patrick and Katie, and have four grandchildren.

Payne graduated magna cum laude from UM in 1963 with a degree in business administration. He started Terry Payne & Co., Inc., a Missoula-based insurance agency, in 1972. He also is the founder of PayneWest Insurance, a top-40 nationally ranked agency, where he serves as chairman of the board. He and his wife, Patt, have two sons, Tim (Dawn) and Steve, along with one granddaughter, Celeste.

Payne said his support for UM springs from his very positive experience as a student of the University.

“My time at UM helped form the values and direction of my career, and I am very thankful for that,” he said. “Investing in the University to help with the needs of the students, faculty and campus has been a very natural thing to do.”

Payne previously has received an honorary doctorate (2014), the Distinguished Alumni Award (2006) and the Neil Bucklew Presidential Service Award (2008) from the University.

The UM Foundation established the Order of the Grizzly in 1965 to honor individuals who sustained an active interest in Montana and whose accomplishments contributed to the welfare of the state, nation and world. Past recipients include Sen. Mike Mansfield, actress Myrna Loy and Llewellyn Callaway, who was the publisher of Newsweek in the 1960s.

The award now is conferred on those who have made a significant impact on the University through their leadership and philanthropy. Recipients are awarded a bronze miniature of a grizzly bear, the mascot of the University, sculpted by late UM Professor Rudy Autio.

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Contact: Kate Stober, UM Foundation senior writer/editor, 406-243-2627, kate.stober@mso.umt.edu.
SpectrUM’s Brain Exhibit Travels to Wolf Point

September 25, 2015

MISSOULA – “Brain: The World inside Your Head,” a popular University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area traveling exhibit, will visit Wolf Point on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 30-Oct. 1.

Featuring hands-on exhibits and activities exploring the wonders of neuroscience, the brain exhibit will transform the gym at Wolf Point Junior/Senior High School into an interactive science museum. Highlights of the exhibition include an EEG measurement station, a colossal brain and Mind Flex Duel, an activity that allows visitors to move a ball using just their brain waves.

Families and friends also are invited to attend a free Family Science Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Wolf Point Junior/Senior High School, where students will be able to share spectrUM’s brain exhibition and activities with family, friends and community members.

The spectrUM Discovery Area travels the state with a mobile science center featuring interactive exhibits. According to spectrUM Director Holly Truitt, the goal of spectrUM’s mobile outreach is to “help inspire Montana’s next generation of scientists, health care providers, engineers and visionaries.”
Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, the UM spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula. Annually, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans through in-museum and mobile programs. The Wolf Point tour stop is powered by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and the Big Sky Brain Project.

Since 2006, spectrUM has traveled exhibits and educators to 71 schools and three public libraries in 29 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations. In total, spectrUM’s mobile science program has served over 51,000 people, of whom 30 percent are Native American and more than 75 percent live in rural communities. Its fall tour will continue with stops in Sidney on Oct. 5-6.

SpectrUM’s sponsors and partners include the UM Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, Community Medical Center, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Jane S. Heman Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program, NISE Network, the Noyce Foundation, the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation, SciGirls, the Simons Foundation and the Western Montana Area Health Education Center. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has given the gift of science to more than 12,000 Montana children.

The public can visit spectrUM at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula. Public hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person.

For more information or to book a school visit, call spectrUM STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828 or visit http://www.spectrum.umt.edu.

Contact: Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.

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Families and friends also are invited to attend a free Family Science Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at Sidney High School, where students will be able to share spectrUM’s brain exhibition and activities with family, friends and community members.

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Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, the UM spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula. Annually, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans through in-museum and mobile programs. The Sidney tour stop is powered by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and the Big Sky Brain Project.

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

SpectrUM’s sponsors and partners include the UM Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, Community Medical Center, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Jane S. Heman Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program, NISE Network, the Noyce Foundation, the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation, SciGirls, the Simons Foundation and the Western Montana Area Health Education Center. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has given the gift of science to more than 12,000 Montana children.

The public can visit spectrUM at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula. Public hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person.

For more information or to book a school visit, call spectrUM STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828 or visit http://www.spectrum.umt.edu.

Contact: Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – “Brain: The World inside Your Head,” a popular University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area traveling exhibit, will visit Circle on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 28-29.

Featuring hands-on exhibits and activities exploring the wonders of neuroscience, the brain exhibit will transform the gym at Redwater School into an interactive science museum. Highlights of the exhibition include an EEG measurement station, a colossal brain and Mind Flex Duel, an activity that allows visitors to move a ball using just their brain waves.

Families and friends also are invited to attend a free Family Science Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at Redwater School, where students will be able to share spectrUM’s brain exhibition and activities with family, friends and community members.

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SpectrUM’s Brain Exhibit Travels to Circle - UM News - University Of Montana

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SpectrUM’s sponsors and partners include the UM Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, Community Medical Center, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Jane S. Heman Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program, NISE Network, the Noyce Foundation, the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation, SciGirls, the Simons Foundation and the Western Montana Area Health Education Center. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has given the gift of science to more than 12,000 Montana children.

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**Contact:** Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, spectrUM Discovery Area, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Five times in Earth’s history mass extinction events have wiped out up to 90 percent of global life. University of Montana doctoral student Montana Hodges and geosciences Professor George Stanley recently found the fossil record of the earliest North American coral species that reappeared after the Triassic-Jurassic mass extinction event.

Their findings were published in the October issue of GSA Today: A Publication of the Geological Society of America. The article “North American coral recovery after the end-Triassic mass extinction, New York Canyon, Nevada,” is featured on the journal’s cover.
Hodges and Stanley research the collapse and recovery of coral reefs. Corals are particularly hard-hit by subtle changes in ocean temperature and acidity. About 200 million years ago, corals and reefs completely collapsed. During this particular extinction event, researchers have found no evidence of asteroid impact or other catastrophic events. Instead, the geologic and paleontological records point to massive global climate change.

“We believe the warming climate was due to a combination effect from supercontinent Pangea breaking apart, changes in sea level and massive amounts of gas spewing into the atmosphere from cracks in the Earth’s crust,” Hodges said.

After that mass extinction event, it took coral reefs more than 20 million years to completely recover. In the dusty, high desert of central Nevada, the team discovered the earliest North American Jurassic corals.

New York Canyon, Nevada, is swathed with sedimentary rocks that during the Jurassic period represented the west coast of North America. Geologists have flocked to this site for almost a hundred years to study the unique and continuous deposition of rocks that span the Triassic-Jurassic boundary. The fossils left in the rocks offer a fairly complete snapshot of the mass extinction. Yet, the significance of the corals found there had not been noted until now.

“The Jurassic corals represent a recovery of all species after the event,” Hodges said. “They are simple, solitary corals that lived in thick mud, which may have helped their survival during such a tumultuous time. Or they may have migrated from the distant side of Pangea.”

Regardless, they are the earliest representatives of the coral that would slowly rebuild and diversify over millions of years.

By studying these unique corals, Hodges and Stanley aim to contribute a better understanding of survival and recovery.

“Our study may lend valuable information to understanding the peril of coral reefs today,” Hodges said.

Contact: Montana Hodges, UM doctoral student, 406-830-0141, montana.hodges@umontana.edu.
Missoula Joins 'CHINA Town Hall' on Chinese Investments in US

September 23, 2015

MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana is honored to bring the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations’ ninth annual “CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections” live webcast to Missoula on Monday, Oct. 5.

Former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin will lead an expert panel in a live “town hall” meeting broadcast to audiences in more than 70 locations nationwide on what China’s investments in the U.S. mean for American workers, communities and the economy. In addition to the national webcast, Frank Jannuzi, president and CEO of the Mansfield Foundation, will be at UM to discuss “The Six Dragons Imperiling China’s Rise.”

The program begins at 5 p.m. in UM’s Todd Building Room 203. It is free and open to the public.

The event is part of efforts by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations to help Americans better understand the complex U.S.-China relationship and the growing role of Chinese investment. The program’s live webcast panel will feature Rubin, Mayor Sheldon Day of Thomasville, Alabama, where a major Chinese-owned factory is located, and Daniel Rosen, founding partner of the Rhodium Group. The panel’s discussion and responses to questions
submitted by the nationwide audience will be moderated by National Committee President Stephen Orlins.

China rapidly emerged as one of the fastest-growing sources of foreign direct investment in the United States, bringing increasing numbers of Chinese companies into U.S. communities and providing jobs to tens of thousands of Americans, as described in the May 2015 report “New Neighbors: Chinese Investment in the United States by Congressional District,” released by the National Committee and the Rhodium Group. While foreign direct investment is a vital component of U.S. economic growth, employment and competitiveness, media coverage of a few high-profile Chinese investments has focused on security and economic risks.

Following the broadcast panel discussion, Januzzi’s lecture at UM will round out the discussion on China’s economic growth by examining the potential impacts on the U.S. economy of not just China’s economic strengths, but also its weaknesses. China currently faces six internal challenges: environmental concerns, energy needs, demographics, inequality, corruption and ethnic unrest. The recent U.S. stock market volatility demonstrates one of the ways the U.S. will be affected should China’s economy falter in the face of these “six dragons.”

The National Committee on U.S.-China Relations is the leading national, nonpartisan public affairs organization devoted exclusively to building constructive and durable relationships between the United States and China.

UM’s Mansfield Center promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield (1903-2001) and his wife, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. The center houses programs that focus on the peoples and cultures of modern Asia and ethics in public affairs – the core interests and hallmarks of Sen. Mansfield’s career. This event is co-sponsored by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, UM’s School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, and the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.

Contact: Caitlin Sager, administrative assistant, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The National Institutes of Health recently selected a University of Montana professor to be a member of its Center for Scientific Review. David Shepherd, a faculty member in UM’s College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, accepted the four-year appointment to serve on the Innate Immunity and Inflammation Study Section.

NIH chooses its members
based on their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals and other significant scientific activities and honors.

“It's an honor for me, as this group of scientists are amongst the most productive and respected leaders in the field of immunology in the U.S. and throughout the world,” Shepherd said.

Study section service requires mature judgment and objectivity, as members review NIH grant applications and make recommendations to the appropriate NIH advisory council or board.

During the past 15 years, Shepherd has received significant resources and financial support from NIH for his research and has become an internationally recognized expert in environmental immunology.

“Dr. Shepherd's research is highly respected in the research community as demonstrated by his invitation to serve on the Innate Immunity and Inflammation Study Section,” said Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship.

“It is a sincere privilege to be able to give back to the scientific community and NIH by serving on this study section while it also provides the impetus for me to continually hone my knowledge and skills in this important area of biomedical research,” Shepherd said.

Shepherd’s appointment began July 1 and ends June 30, 2019.

For more information call Shepherd at 406-243-2224 or email dave.shepherd@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: David Shepherd, professor, UM Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences, 406-243-2224, dave.shepherd@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center now is offering support to University of Montana faculty members for Asia-related research through the Yamaguchi Opportunity Fund.

The support of Akira Yamaguchi allows the University to offer modest funding each fall and spring to faculty from all departments and schools for research and, to a lesser extent, curriculum development related to Asia.

Past awards have gone to faculty from the language, sociology and music departments. Supported activities include research-related travel, scholarly publications, conference participation and essential research materials.

Preference is given to full-time faculty members who are pre-tenure, although other applicants will be considered. Limited support may be available for research proposals from UM graduate students. Awards typically are $500, and the maximum award is $1,000.

Interested faculty members and students should submit a two-page proposal detailing the nature and cost breakdown of their request, and explain the impact the support will have on their research or teaching. A letter of
support from a colleague in the field who is familiar with the applicant’s work and is able to assess the merits of the proposal must be included. Students should include a letter of support from a principal adviser.

The application deadline is Monday, Oct. 12. All applications can be submitted by email attachment to caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu. Awards will be announced in late October. For more information visit http://umt.edu/mansfield/academics/facultyfunding.php.

Contact: Caitlin Sager, Mansfield Center administrative assistant, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.
UM Gallery of Visual Arts to Feature New Drawing, Audio Exhibit

September 24, 2015

MISSOULA – A new art exhibit combining suspended and layered construction drawings with audio recordings will be on display at the University of Montana’s Gallery of Visual Arts from Thursday, Oct. 1, to Friday, Oct. 30.

The gallery will host an opening reception for “Variations of Unlimited Sequence,” an
installation by Billings artist Jodi Lightner, from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1. It is free and open to the public and will include a talk by Lightner at 5:45 p.m. The Gallery of Visual Arts is located on the first floor of the Social Science Building.

The works in “Variations of Unlimited Sequence” are a part of an ongoing drawing series by Lightner that examine the patterns and perception of space that develop as people interact within architectural structures. By suspending large-scale drawings from the ceiling, viewers will have the opportunity to move in and around the works, becoming increasingly aware of how they are forced to move through the space. Lightner suggests that the behavior and attitudes created through repetitive patterns of interaction define a particular place.

Lightner is currently an assistant professor of painting and drawing at Montana State University Billings. Her work has been exhibited on regional and national levels and was included in the Missoula Art Museum exhibit “Montana Triennial: 2015.”

For more information call gallery director Cathryn Mallory at 406-243-2813 or email gallery.visarts@umontana.edu. Information about the Gallery of Visual Arts is online at www.umt.edu/art.

Contact: Cathryn Mallory, director, UM Gallery of Visual Arts, 406-243-2813, gallery.visarts@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – A novelist who won the 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship in Fiction will visit the University of Montana on Friday, Oct. 2, lecturing about writing fiction during the day and reading fiction that evening. Both events are free and open to the public.

Stacey D’Erasmo, associate professor of writing at Columbia University, will present her craft lecture, “On Beauty,” from 12:10 to 1 p.m. in Payne Family Native American Center Room 105. Her fiction reading begins at 7 p.m. in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room.

D’Erasmo has written four novels. In addition to the Guggenheim Fellowship, she won the Outstanding Mid-Career Novelist Prize from the Lambda Literary Foundation and is a former Stegner Fellow. Her essays, features and reviews have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The New York Times Book Review, the Boston Review,
Columbia Writing Professor to Read, Lecture at UM - UM News - University Of Montana

Bookforum, the New England Review and Ploughshares, among other publications.

To learn more about the Creative Writing Program and D’Erasmo’s visit to UM, call Karin Schalm, program coordinator, at 406-243-5267, email karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu or visit http://www.hs.umt.edu/creativewriting/.

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Contact: Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu.
UM Invites Community Participation at University Council Meetings

September 23, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana encourages members of the campus and Missoula communities to join the discussion on campuswide issues and University initiatives during monthly University Council meetings.

Meetings run from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. with about 30 minutes for presentation and 30 minutes for general discussion. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 29, in University Center Room 332. It will feature a presentation by Brent Hildebrand of the Curry Health Center Wellness Program titled “What We Know About UM Students’ Health,” as well as an update on Associated Students of UM leadership priorities from President Cody Meixner and Vice President Betsy Story.

University Council members include representatives from UM’s Staff and Faculty senates, ASUM, University Faculty Association, the Montana Public Employees Union, UM administrators and the Missoula community.

The schedule of meetings for the rest of fall semester is:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 27, UC 332:** “Student Engagement in the UM Community and Beyond” – student panel
Moderated by Andrea Vernon, UM Office for Civic Engagement

- **Tuesday, Nov. 24, location TBA:** "UM’s Economic Development Impacts: Research, Companies & Private Sector Jobs" – panel moderated by Joe Fanguy, UM director of technology transfer

More information is online at [http://www.umt.edu/committees/universitycouncil.php](http://www.umt.edu/committees/universitycouncil.php).

**Contact:** Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, peggy.kuhr@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana will offer a free continuing legal education session from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, in the School of Law Castles Center.

The session will feature three guest speakers – John Morgan, Robert Phillips and Dan Lear – who will discuss the future of law practice.

Morgan is the founder of Morgan & Morgan, a law firm that employs more than 260 attorneys and more than 1,500 support staff in multiple states. He has lectured across the country on building a successful law practice, which is also the topic of his first book “You Can't Teach Hungry … Creating the Multimillion Dollar Law Firm.” The book offers insight into Morgan’s success, philosophy and business methods, and provides the groundwork for a sustainable and enduring practice.

In addition to the CLE session, Morgan will deliver a lecture to law students at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, in the School of Law Castles Center.
Phillips is an attorney and partner at Phillips Haffey PC in Missoula. He also teaches Law Practice Management at UM’s Blewett School of Law. Phillips began his practice in 1978, focusing on insurance law including defense, coverage and bad faith. He has tried numerous jury and nonjury cases in areas including automobile, products liability, premises liability, lien foreclosure, construction and insurance bad faith.

Lear, director of industry relations at AVVO, is a technology lawyer, facilitator and blogger. In his six years as a practicing attorney and more than ten years in the legal industry, he has worked for two lean “new-law” firms, designed and implemented an online program for procurement contract processing, and was a part of early international legal outsourcing efforts with a Fortune 500 company.

The CLE session is free and open to the public. For more information call Mike White, law school media information specialist, at 406-243-6509 or email michael.white@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Mike White, media information specialist, Alexander Blewett III School of Law at UM, 406-243-6509, michael.white@mso.umt.edu.
Campus Recreation’s Night of the Griz 5K to Benefit Youth Camps

September 23, 2015

MISSOULA – Runners, walkers and volunteers of all ages are invited to take part in the Night of the Griz 5K fun run at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, in Caras Park.

Participants are encouraged to creatively illuminate themselves for the journey. Friends and families can run as a team or individually through the streets of downtown Missoula, along the Clark Fork River, and through the University of Montana campus. The course loops back through downtown and finishes in Caras Park. A series of glow zones will energize runners along the course. This is an untimed event.

After the race, participants can take in a light show, listen to a DJ and attend a post-race party. Refreshments and food carts will be onsite to serve the crowd. Registration costs $35 and includes glow glasses, a necklace and a bracelet. Visit http://nightofthegriz.com for more information and to register.

A portion of race fees will go toward UM’s Campus Recreation Youth Camps program, which is designed to foster children’s sense of autonomy while exploring all forms of recreation. For more information about Campus Recreation Youth Camps, email campusrec.youthcamps@mso.umt.edu or call 406-243-5295.
Contact: Natalie Hiller-Claridge, UM Campus Recreation, 406-243-5295, natalie.hiller@mso.umt.edu.
UM Program Celebrates Biggest Names in UM Athletic Training History

September 22, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Athletic Training program will host its first Athletic Training Hall of Fame Celebration on Friday, Sept. 25, to honor prestigious graduates and leaders of this robust program.

Housed in UM’s Department of Health and Human Performance, the Athletic Training program was among the first of its kind in the nation and continues to be a leader in the field of athletic training education. Since 1971, this high-demand program has provided students with a rigorous, nationally accredited academic program, extensive hands-on experience at various clinical education sites, and unique interactions with allied and medical health care professionals throughout western Montana.

The celebration is an opportunity for the Athletic Training program, the Department of Health and Human Performance, and the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences to highlight the many extraordinary graduates of this program.

“This year we are fortunate to be able to host many of the earliest graduates of the program, as well as honor individuals who represent some of the biggest names in Athletic Training that have preceded us,” said Valarie
Moody, a health and human performance professor and director of the Athletic Training program.

“We are thrilled that our speakers are willing to share their unique professional and leadership experiences with our students and faculty,” she said. “This will be a historic day for UM Athletic Training program.”

Among the speakers are Michael E. Nesbitt, head athletic trainer and associate professor at Northern Arizona University. During his tenure at NAU, he promoted and justified athletic trainers in numerous Arizona high schools. Pete Rhinehart will present on behalf of Naseby Rhinehart, UM's first athletic trainer. As a student at UM, Naseby Rhinehart earned nine letters in football, basketball and track – picking up knowledge of injury prevention and treatment firsthand. Rhinehart remained at UM for 47 years, and the Rhinehart Athletic Treatment Center is named in his honor.

Other great UM athletic trainers being recognized are Don Gleason, Wiley Kendle and Dennis Murphy.

For further information about the UM Athletic Training program or the Athletic Training Hall of Fame Celebration, visit http://coehs.umt.edu/umat/default.php or call Valerie Moody, athletic training program director, at 406-243-4211 or email valerie.moody@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Peter Knox, communications and outreach manager, UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, 406-243-4911, peter.knox@mso.umt.edu.
Illusionist Jay Owenhouse will bring his “The Magic of Jay Owenhouse” show to the University of Montana for two performances at 4 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Dennison Theatre.

The show promises to be a “mind-boggling, spell-binding experience that will keep you on the edge of your seat.” The performance is a theatrical event where audiences not only witness the magic, they experience it. Attendees will see audience members float in mid-air, get sawed in half and predict the future. The show also features Owenhouse’s new tigers: Shekinah, a royal white tiger, and her sister, Sheena, an orange bengal.

Tickets are on sale now and range from $30.50 to $70.50. They can be purchased at http://www.griztix.com and all GrizTix outlets or by calling 406-243-4051 or 1-888-MONTANA.

Contact: Tom Webster, director, UM Dennison Theatre, 406-243-2853, thomas.webster@mso.umt.edu.
Illusionist Jay Owenhouse to Perform at UM’s Dennison Theatre - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Nature, music and art will converge during a live, multimedia performance at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, at the North Underground Lecture Hall at the University of Montana.

UM’s Environmental Studies Program will host the presentation, “‘What Can I Do?’ Spaceship Earth,” which is designed to show audience members how their actions affect the earth. The event is free and open to the public.

Colorado folk musician Laurie Dameron will perform as environmental photographs taken by John Fielder and Karl Snyder are shown. Dameron’s song “What Can I Do?” ranked among the top 10 finalists in the 2011 Tipperary World Peace Song Contest. She also passed the first round of auditions for America’s Got Talent in Denver in 2013.

For more information on the event, call UM environmental studies Professor Vicki Watson at 406-243-5153 or email vicki.watson@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Vicki Watson, UM environmental studies professor, 406-243-5153, vicki.watson@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies gave Chad Bishop, Wildlife Biology Program director at the University of Montana, an honorary lifetime membership award in July.

Before starting as director at UM in August, Bishop served as assistant director for Wildlife and Natural Resources at Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The honorary lifetime membership award is customarily given only to outgoing...
agency directors.

WAFWA honored Bishop for his work with the association from 2012 to 2015, when he chaired its Wildlife Health Committee and served as Colorado’s representative on WAFWA’s Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative Council.

“This award heightens UM’s profile among the western state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies charged with managing and conserving wildlife resources in the West,” said Bishop.

Contact: Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – In an effort to raise awareness of hunger in Montana, the Montana Food Bank Network is “marooning out the M” on Monday, Sept. 21. The event, which takes place during the University of Montana’s Homecoming Week, will begin at 3 p.m.

Participants are asked to meet at the M trailhead and wear a maroon T-shirt. Those who wish to support the MFBN can purchase a $10 officially licensed Griz T-shirt designed specifically for this event.

T-shirts will be available for purchase at the trailhead starting at 2:30 p.m., or can be pre-purchased on campus either at UM’s Entertainment Management program office, located in Gallagher Business Building Room L34B, or at The Bookstore at UM, located in the University Center.

According to the MFBN, one in seven Montanans struggle with hunger. With support from the University of Montana, Albertsons and The Shirt Shop, 100 percent of the T-shirt sales will help Montanans overcome their battle with hunger.
With a network of more than 200 partner agencies, the mission of the Montana Food Bank Network is to end hunger in Montana through food acquisition and distribution, education and advocacy. The nonprofit distributes more than 8 million pounds of food throughout the state.

“We strive every day to get more food to Montanans in need,” said Cassidy Green, MFBN marketing and events coordinator. “With just a $1 donation, the Montana Food Bank Network can provide enough food for three meals, and all donations stay in Montana.”

For more information about MFBN, visit http://mfbn.org/ or call 406-721-3825. For more information about the event, call Green at 406-215-1774.

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**Contact:** Cassidy Green, marketing and events coordinator, Montana Food Bank Network, 406-215-1774, cgreen@mfbn.org; Michael Morelli, director, UM Entertainment Management program, 406-243-5810, mike.morelli@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – “Motion,” one of the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area’s popular traveling exhibits, will visit Lodge Grass on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 24-25.

Featuring hands-on exhibits and activities exploring the wonders of physics and engineering, “Motion” will transform the gym at Lodge Grass Elementary School into an interactive science museum. Highlights of the exhibition include a larger-than-life spinning turntable, a gravity well, a Bernoulli Blower, flying cups and spectrUM’s ever-popular flight simulator.

A free family science night will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in the Lodge Grass Elementary School gymnasium, where students will be able to share their knowledge with family, friends and community members.

The spectrUM Discovery Area travels the state with a mobile science center featuring interactive exhibits. spectrUM Director Holly Truitt said the goal of spectrUM’s mobile outreach is to “help inspire Montana’s next generation of scientists, health care providers, engineers and visionaries.”
Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, the spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula. Annually, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans through in-museum and mobile programs. This tour stop is powered by O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation.

Since 2006, spectrUM has traveled exhibits and educators to 71 schools and three public libraries in 29 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations in Montana. In total, spectrUM’s mobile science program has served over 51,000 people, of whom 30 percent are Native American and over 75 percent live in rural communities. Its fall tour will continue with stops in Circle (Sept. 28-29), Wolf Point (Sept. 30-Oct. 1), and Sidney (Oct. 5-6).

SpectrUM’s sponsors and partners include the UM Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, Community Medical Center, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Jane S. Heman Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program, NISE Network, the Noyce Foundation, the O.P and W.E. Edwards Foundation, SciGirls, the Simons Foundation and the Western Montana Area Health Education Center. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has given the gift of science to more than 12,000 Montana children.

The public can visit spectrUM at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula. Public hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person.

For more information or to book a school visit, call spectrUM STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828 or visit http://www.spectrum.umt.edu.

Contact: Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
UM Launches New Alliance to Support Accessibility on Campus

September 17, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will launch a new alliance this fall called Access Partners that will provide faculty and staff a new opportunity to promote accessibility to the UM community.

Access Partners is an alliance that aims to promote a campus environment that goes above and beyond disability compliance. It also promotes an inclusive campus community that welcomes all individuals and brings together faculty, staff and students to create a more positive and innovative UM experience for all people.

UM Disability Services for Students and Human Resource Services Training and Development will hold a workshop for Access Partners participants from 2:10 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, in the Payne Family Native American Center Room 201. The workshop will provide information on campus resources for faculty and staff to improve accessibility and will address how the workshop participants will become Access Partners.

Topics of the workshop will include Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility compliance, how Accessibility Technology Services and UMOnline assist with accessible electronic information, how UM employees can request reasonable accommodations for their work, support and services DSS offers to faculty members who
work with students with disabilities, and the role the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action and the Americans with Disabilities Act Team play in providing accessibility.

More information on Access Partners and the workshop registration can be found online at http://www.umt.edu/accessibility/accesspartners.php.

Contact: Mika Watanabe, coordinator, UM Disability Services for Students, 406-243-6535, mika.watanabe@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana plans a three-day celebration to recognize American Indian heritage, Wednesday through Friday, Sept. 23-25. All events are free and open to the public, except lunch at the Food Zoo on Friday.

The schedule is:

- **Wednesday, Sept. 23**: “Rock Your Mocs” Day. People are encouraged to wear moccasins all day in celebration of American Indian heritage.

- **Thursday, Sept. 24**: Curated indigenous traditional regalia and clothing display, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place, Payne Family Native American Center, UM.

- **Friday, Sept. 25: American Indian Heritage Day**
  - 7 a.m.: Sunrise ceremony, led by Patrick Weaselhead and LeeAnn Bruised Head, Storytelling Area...
outside Payne Center.

- **8:15 a.m.:** Light refreshments, Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place, Payne Center.
- **8:30 a.m.:** Teepee raising with UM Native American student groups, the Oval.
- **9 a.m.-4 p.m.:** Curated indigenous traditional regalia and clothing display, Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place, Payne Center.
- **9:30-11:30 a.m.:** Natural resource-focused activities such as a wildlife app, animal furs and skulls, animal X-rays, stomp rockets and spin activities; lawn north of the Forestry Building. Sponsored by UM’s spectrUM and College of Forestry and Conservation.
- **10 a.m.-noon:** Student group information and crafts fair, Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place, Payne Center.
- **10:30-11:45 a.m.:** First Nations hoop dance exhibition by Terrance LittleTent, Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place, Payne Center.
- **11 a.m.:** The Food Zoo will offer an indigenous menu. Open only to the UM community for $10.25 without a meal plan or $7.69 using Bear Bucks. Lommasson Center.
- **Noon:** American Indian Heritage Day proclamation by UM President Royce Engstrom; includes opening prayer, traditional dancing and drumming; Payne Center.
- **12:30 p.m.:** Native American traditional games, led by UM Native American Studies Chair Wade Davies, the Oval.

- **2-3:30 p.m.:** Stargazing in the Payne Center Stargazing Room and planetarium, every half hour at 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

For more information on the day’s activities or to volunteer, call Michelle Guzman, Native American studies adviser, at 406-243-5831 or email michelle.guzman@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Michelle Guzman, adviser, UM Native American Studies Department, 406-243-5381, michelle.guzman@mso.umt.edu; Wilena Old Person, program coordinator, Native American Center of Excellence and Skaggs School of Pharmacy, 406-243-4097, wilena.oldperson@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Celebrate American Indian Heritage Sept. 23-25 - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Ally Week to Advocate for LGBT Community

September 16, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host events Monday through Wednesday, Sept. 28-30, to advocate for the LGBT community and other marginalized people.

Sponsored by the Student Involvement Network at the University Center, Ally Week will include multiple events and activities.

Tabling and crafts will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Wednesday in the UC. The documentary “Straightlaced – How Gender’s Got Us All Tied UP” also will be shown at 6 p.m. each day in the UC Commons. In addition, UM Allies will conduct a student training from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday in UC Room 326. Students interested in the training can register at http://www.umt.edu/umallies.

Ally Week was started by the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network as a week of education and fun for LGBT youth and other marginalized people without speaking for or over them. For more information about the events or about the UM Allies program, visit http://www.umt.edu/umallies.
Contact: Adrianne Donald, UM University Center associate director and UC Student Involvement Network lead, 406-243-6029, adonald@mso.umt.edu.
Math Journal Founded by UM Professor Now Available in ScholarWorks

September 16, 2015

MISSOULA – The Mathematics Enthusiast, a journal founded in 2003 by University of Montana mathematical sciences Professor Bharath Sriraman, is now available through ScholarWorks, the Mansfield Library’s online, open-access hub where UM faculty, students and staff share their research and creative scholarship.

The Mathematics Enthusiast is an eclectic, internationally circulated peer-reviewed journal that focuses on mathematics content, mathematics education research, innovation, interdisciplinary issues and pedagogy. It has been available for a few months on ScholarWorks and has been downloaded over 3,400 times in more than 120 countries.

"It has been a pleasure working with Professor Sriraman on this project, and I was thrilled to be able to make TME available in ScholarWorks," said Wendy Walker, assistant professor and digital initiatives librarian at the Mansfield Library. "It’s an important, internationally recognized journal that really exemplifies the global reach and impact of our faculty’s work."

TME is an addition to a roster of other UM publications that are or will be available in ScholarWorks within the next
year, including The Oval, CutBank, Montana Journalism Review, Education's Histories and Camas.

Contact: Wendy Walker, assistant professor and digital initiatives librarian, UM Mansfield Library, 406-243-6004, wendy.walker@umontana.edu.
UM Invites Public to 2015 UM Homecoming Art Fair

September 16, 2015

MISSOULA – This year’s University of Montana Homecoming Week wraps up with the annual University Center Homecoming Art Fair. The art fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Sept. 24-25, in the UC Atrium.

The art fair will feature unique art, jewelry, clothing, ceramics and more, all handcrafted by local and regional artists. Along with door prizes donated by art fair vendors, the fair also will showcase live music performed by UM students. The event is free and open to the public.

“We invite visitors to partake in this singular shopping experience amid the lush tropical plants and atrium skylights of the University Center,” said Gwen Landquist, UC assistant director for marketing and art programs.

A long-standing tradition in western Montana, the Homecoming Art Fair is one of three student-coordinated art fairs planned annually by the UC. Proceeds benefit student-focused programs planned by UC Student Involvement.

To learn more about the Homecoming Art Fair, visit [http://life.umt.edu/uc/ucsi/Art_Fairs/default.php](http://life.umt.edu/uc/ucsi/Art_Fairs/default.php), call Landquist at
406-243-5555 or email gwen.landquist@msou.montana.edu, or call Sarah Beals, student art fair coordinator, at 406-243-5714 or email ucartfair@msou.montana.edu.

Contact: Gwen Landquist, UC assistant director for marketing and art programs, 406-243-5555, gwen.landquist@msou.montana.edu.
MISSOULA – Celebrated jazz musician Benny Green will kick off the University of Montana’s Jazz Artist Series with a solo piano concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, at UM’s Music Recital Hall.

“A veteran of some of the most influential jazz artists including Art Blakey, Betty Carter, Ray Brown and Jeff Hamilton, to name a few, Green is arguably the most in-demand jazz pianist performing today,” said Rob
Tapper, director of UM jazz studies.

Hailed as perhaps the most exciting hard-swinging, hard-bop pianist ever to emerge from Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers, Green possesses the history of jazz at his fingertips. Green’s talents are a combination of his mastery of keyboard technique with decades of real-world experience playing with the most celebrated artists of the past half century.

Tickets cost $25 for general admission, $15 for seniors and $10 for students. They can be purchased at the UMArts Box Office by calling 406-243-4581 or online at http://www.umt.edu/griztix/.

New for 2015-16, the UM Jazz Artist Series includes the Fourth Annual Holiday Swing “White Christmas” featuring Eden Atwood at the Missoula Winery in December, The Jeff Hamilton Trio in February, and UM’s 36th Annual Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival in March, with performances from the jazz greats of today.

Contact: Rob Tapper, director of jazz studies, UM School of Music, 406-243-6889, robert.tapper@umontana.edu.
Diebenkorn Exhibit Makes Final Stop at MMAC Sept. 24-Dec. 12

September 14, 2015

MISSOULA – Internationally revered artist Richard Diebenkorn will be featured in an exhibition from Sept. 24 to Dec. 12 at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture in the Paxson and Meloy galleries located in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center at the University of Montana. This show is open to the public.

The twelve-week exhibit is the first-ever to be produced by the Diebenkorn Foundation and includes pencil and ink drawings on paper along with collages of torn paper and watercolors. An opening reception will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in the PAR/TV Center lobby. The event will feature live music,
Diebenkorn Exhibit Makes Final Stop at MMAC Sept. 24-Dec. 12 - UM News - University Of Montana

light refreshments and remarks from Andrea Liguori, managing director of the Richard Diebenkorn Foundation.

Many of Diebenkorn’s pieces featured in the exhibit are lesser known while others are “knockouts,” said Liguori, who is also the associate editor of the Richard Diebenkorn Catalogue Raisonné.

“We are honored to present these works in association with the Diebenkorn Foundation,” said MMAC Director Barbara Koostra. “Diebenkorn's full career path is mapped out through these works on paper; all demonstrate the artist's development, technique and process.”

The exhibition features 52 pieces, an expanded selection after 12 additional works were added on the second half of the touring schedule.

“The showing in Montana is the first time these added 12 works have been seen outside of California and only the second time they have been exhibited at all,” Liguori said. “I think it’s a show people will want to visit more than once. There is so much to see and learn from in these drawings.”

The show is curated by Chester Arnold, chair of the Fine Arts Department at College of Marin in California.

“These works have a special import to anyone studying art,” Arnold said. “They are small sketches, remarkable and
Diebenkorn Exhibit Makes Final Stop at MMAC Sept. 24-Dec. 12 - UM News - University Of Montana

beautiful. They reveal so much about his personality and the works that were being born in his studio. Each period of his work – Ocean Park, Berkeley, Healdsburg – all had highlights along the way and you can see them happening. It is an exhilarating study depicting the development of an artist.”

The Montana Museum of Art & Culture is the final stop on this exhibition’s tour and the last chance to see the show in its present form.

“Diebenkorn was profoundly impacted by the geography that surrounded him wherever he lived,” Liguori said. “His palette opened up into warm oranges, browns and yellows when he lived in Albuquerque. His Ocean Park works capture the distinctive light and color of the Southern California skies and water.

“I have to think he would have gone to yet another incredible place in his work had he spent some time living in Montana.”

Several programs are planned during the exhibition:

Thursday, Oct. 1, MMAC will partner with the Missoula Symphony Orchestra to present “Music in the Artist’s Studio: A Cello Concert with Greg Sauer,” which explores the kinds of music Diebenkorn listened to in his studio while painting. The concert takes place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Masquer Theatre and will be followed by a brief docent-led tour of the exhibition. The event is free and open to the public.

On Thursday, Nov. 19, the museum will host a “Celebrity Artist Tour with Lela Autio,” the renowned Montana modernist. The event runs from 5:30 to 6 p.m. The tour is free and open to the public.

In addition, special docent tours will be given free to the public on the following dates:

Friday, Oct. 2: 6-7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 5: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5: 1-2 p.m.

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

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**Contact:** Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019,
barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu.
UM Outdoor Program Presents 10th Annual Reel Rock Film Tour

September 14, 2015

MISSOULA – Climbers, adventurers and fans of the outdoors, get ready for a night of film at the University of Montana that will rock your world.

The 10th Annual Reel Rock Film Tour is a global production of the best climbing and adventure films of the year. The event will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, at the University Center Theater.

From big walls to big moves, Reel Rock 10 features athletes Tommy Caldwell, Kevin Jorgeson, Alex Honnold, Jimmy Webb, Daniel Woods and a special tribute to the late Dean Potter. The tour will travel to more than 450 locations around the world.

Advance tickets are available for $10 and can be purchased at the UM Outdoor Program, located inside the Fitness and Recreation Center at UM. Tickets also will be available at the door for $12. Admission includes entry to the film and a chance to win raffle prizes.

Proceeds from this event benefit the Outdoor Program and are used to maintain the climbing wall, offer new
programs and purchase equipment.

For more information on the event and for film previews, visit http://reelrocktour.com.

Contact: Jefferson Heath, UM Outdoor Program coordinator, 406-243-6846, crecop@mso.umt.edu.
Two UM Law Professors Honored at State Bar of Montana’s Annual Meeting

September 14, 2015

MISSOULA – University of Montana Professor Hillary Wandler and Adjunct Professor Chuck Willey were honored with prestigious awards Sept. 10 during the State Bar of Montana’s Annual Meeting.

Gov. Steve Bullock awarded Wandler, a law professor, the Neil Haight Pro Bono Award for her pro bono work with veterans in Montana.

Earlier this year, Wandler was cited in the Missoulian newspaper’s “20 Under 40” feature, which highlighted Missoula’s top 20 business professionals under 40 years of age. The Missoulian highlighted her work on behalf of veterans even as she battled breast cancer, which she was diagnosed with in 2012.

“I’m excited that pro bono work for veterans is getting attention,” Wandler said. “The veteran community needs to navigate through the complexities of the Veterans Affairs system. Attorneys are well equipped for that.”

Wandler was nominated for the Pro Bono Award by Montana U.S. Sen. Jon Tester. In his letter, Sen. Tester noted that Wandler developed the law school’s veteran law course and has partnered with the Montana Supreme Court
Pro Bono Program to develop Montana Attorneys for Montana Veterans, a pro bono program to help veterans with claims for disability benefits.

Tester, in his nomination letter, cited Wandler’s work as a mentor, noting that through her leadership the state has gone from having three attorneys accredited before the Bureau of Veterans Affairs to having 70.

“Mentor, that feels way too big for me,” Wandler said. “I really like to troubleshoot with people who are having difficult cases. More often than not, it’s just a one-time call.”

Willey also was honored on Sept. 10 with the George L. Bousliman Professionalism Award, which recognizes lawyers or law firms that have established a reputation for and a tradition of professionalism and have demonstrated extraordinary professionalism within two years prior to the nomination.

Willey moved back to Montana from California, where he was serving as president of the Santa Barbara Bar Association and chairman of the Committee on Justice.

For most of the 15 years since he has been back, he has served as an adjunct professor at the UM law school. He also has served for 10 years as the chairman of the Business, Estates, Trusts, Tax & Real Property Law Section; presented at 12 continuing legal education sessions; presented at the Tax Institute four times; and has done legislative work for the bar.

He says it was an accident that he first got into teaching. The UM law school’s business transactions professor at the time had fallen ill and, knowing Willey had expertise in the subject, she asked if he could take over half of her class.

Since then, he said, he has filled in whenever there was a need.

He has taught real estate transactions, property, conflict of laws and business organization. He wrote the only Montana real estate transactions textbook.

He was nominated for the award by Randy Snyder.

“Chuck has always supported the state bar and past age 80 still contributes,” Synder wrote in the nomination letter. “He exemplifies professionalism and deserves our recognition.”


Contact: Mike White, media information specialist, Alexander Blewett III School of Law at UM, 406-243-6509, michael.white@msou.montana.edu.
MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana will present the documentary “The Look of Silence” Sept. 18-24 in conjunction with the Roxy Theater. The documentary, focusing on the brutal 1965 purge of alleged communists that killed up to 1 million people, will show twice daily at the theater.

In keeping with the center's educational mandate, it will fund free admission for all UM Griz Card and Missoula County Public School ID holders.

Owen Sirrs of the Mansfield Center’s Defense Critical Language and Culture Program at UM will preface the documentary with a short talk titled “The Year of Living Dangerously: A Forgotten Genocide” at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, to provide context for the purge and will close the film with a Q-and-A session. Mansfield Center Associate Director Deena Mansour also will provide context from her experience working at the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia.

In 1965 and 1966, the Indonesian Army and its affiliated militias killed up to 1 million people. It was a purge of alleged communists, many of whom were ethnic Chinese. For decades, the Suharto dictatorship suppressed memories of these horrific events with the tragic result that many Indonesians are either afraid to speak about them.
or, in the case of the younger generation, are largely ignorant of them.

Directed by Josh Oppenheimer, “The Look of Silence” reveals the true story of one man’s quest to bring the terrible events of this period to light. The main subject confronts those men responsible for the death of an older brother he never knew. The Detroit News aptly describes “The Look of Silence” as "a terrifying study of mass moral rationalization."

Sirrs is an adjunct professor who teaches Indonesian politics, history and culture to U.S. Army Special Forces. He previously served as an intelligence officer at the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. His publications include "Nasser and the Missile Age in the Middle East (2006)," “A History of the Egyptian Intelligence Service (2011)” and the forthcoming “Pakistan’s Inter Services Intelligence: Covert Action and Internal Operations.”

Mansour served as a diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1994 to 1997, with a focus on media, education and cultural affairs. She currently works with Indonesian and other students from Southeast Asia in educational exchange programs.

UM’s Mansfield Center promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield (1903-2001) and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. The center houses programs that focus on the peoples and cultures of modern Asia and ethics in public affairs – the core interests and hallmarks of Sen. Mansfield’s career.

More information is available at http://www.umt.edu/mansfield.

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Contact: Caitlin Sager, UM Mansfield Center administrative assistant, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.
Lectures to Feature Talks on Refugee Crisis, Iran Nuclear Deal

September 11, 2015

MISSOULA – Two upcoming lectures at the University of Montana will discuss current hot-button issues in the Middle East.

The Central & Southwest Asian Studies Brown Bag Presentation Series will present the lectures with participation by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center's Defense Critical Language and Culture Program. The series uses UM faculty and staff members to address current world events and topics.

The presentations will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in Skaggs Building Room 117. Both events are free and open to the public.

- **Wednesday, Sept. 16:** “Refugee Crisis in the Middle East, Africa and Europe” with presentations by Shaima Khinjani, manager of academic programs at the Mansfield Center’s Defense Critical Language and Culture Program at UM; Marton Marko, associate professor of German in UM’s Department of Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures; and Michel Valentin, professor in the Department of Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures.
Lectures to Feature Talks on Refugee Crisis, Iran Nuclear Deal - UM News - University Of Montana

- **Wednesday, Sept. 23**: “Iran Nuclear Deal: Parsing the Pros and Cons” with presentations by Don Loranger and Owen Sirrs of the Defense Critical Language and Culture Program; and Mehrdad Kia of UM’s Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center and the Department of History.

For more information on the presentations, visit [http://www.umt.edu/dclcp](http://www.umt.edu/dclcp) call Daphne Felker at 406-243-3608 or email daphne.felker@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact**: Daphne Felker, UM’s Defense Critical Language and Culture Program, 406-243-3608, daphne.felker@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Former U.S. Forest Service Deputy Chief Jim Furnish will lead a panel discussion from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, in the Payne Family Native American Center at the University of Montana. Furnish will discuss his new memoir, “Toward a Natural Forest: The Forest Service in Transition,” that he published in 2015.

Furnish joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1965, and during his 34-year career he served as the agency’s deputy chief and the Siuslaw National Forest supervisor.

Other panelists include former Missoula Mayor Daniel Kemmis and Bolle Center for People and Forests Director Martin Nie.

Furnish's book offers an insider’s view of a tumultuous time in the agency’s history, including the transition from commodity extraction to ecosystem management.

The documentary “Seeing the Forest” also will be screened at the event. The film examines a West Coast national forest’s transition in the wake of the spotted owl crisis.
The discussion is sponsored by UM College of Forestry and Conservation and the UM Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration.

**Contact:** Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.
Soil Scientist to Discuss Farming, Climate Change in Lecture at UM

September 11, 2015

MISSOULA — Warren Wilson College environmental studies Professor Laura Lengnick will present the lecture “Resilient Agriculture: Farming in a Changing Climate,” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, in the University Center at the University of Montana. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Lengnick is an agronomist and soil scientist as well as an educator, policymaker, activist and researcher who focuses on how sustainable agriculture and food systems enhance communities. She was the lead author of the U.S. Department of Agriculture report “Climate Change and Agriculture in the United States: Effects and Adaptation,” which was included in the third National Climate Assessment.

Lengnick also is a climate resilience planning consultant with Fernleaf Solutions and researcher with the Local Food Research Center in Asheville, North Carolina. She has led the academic program in sustainable agriculture at Warren Wilson College for more than a decade.

Sponsors of the lecture include the UM Environmental Studies Program, UM Dining, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at UM, Montana Audubon, the UM Office of Sustainability, UM International Conservation and
Soil Scientist to Discuss Farming, Climate Change in Lecture at UM

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Development Program, UM Resource Conservation Program, Climate Smart Missoula, Alternative Energy Resources Organization and the Community Food and Agriculture Coalition.

For more information email UM environmental studies Professor Neva Hassanien at neva.hassanein@umontana.edu.

Contact: Neva Hassanein, professor, UM Environmental Studies Program, 406-243-6271, neva.hassanein@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – A campus celebration to officially rename the University of Montana law school will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, in the law building’s Garlington, Lohn & Robinson Plaza.

Montana’s law school is now known as the Alexander Blewett III School of Law. The state Board of Regents approved the new name in May after the University received a $10 million gift to the law school from Alexander “Zander” and Andrea “Andy” Blewett of Great Falls.

The renaming ceremony will include remarks by UM President Royce Engstrom, law school Dean Paul Kirgis and Zander Blewett, a 1971 graduate of the school. The national president of the American Bar Association, Paulette Brown, also will attend. Brown has been in Missoula in conjunction with the annual meeting of the State Bar of Montana. She met with UM law students on Thursday, Sept. 10.

The Blewett gift allows the law school to create an endowed chair in consumer law and protection, with endowed support for programs in consumer protection and access to justice. It also provides $1.5 million for the Access to Legal Education Scholarship Fund and creates an endowed discretionary fund for general law school support.
The scholarship is structured as a giving challenge. Qualifying gifts that other supporters put toward law scholarships will be matched with an equal contribution to the Access to Legal Education Scholarship Fund, up to a total of $1.5 million. If the challenge is met, new scholarship donations will total $3 million. The UM Foundation will manage the endowed funds to provide ongoing value to the School of Law and its students.

The Blewett gift nearly doubles the size of the law school’s endowment, raising it to more than $21 million.

The Blewett family has a longstanding relationship with Montana’s law school. Blewett’s father, Alexander Blewett Jr., graduated from the institution in 1938, and Zander and Andy’s sons, Anders and Drew, graduated from the school in 2007.

Zander Blewett learned the value of education from his father, who was born in Butte in 1913. His father earned his bachelor’s and law degrees from UM before moving to Great Falls, where he raised a family with his wife, Fern.

Today, Zander and his sons practice law at Hoyt & Blewett, one of Montana’s pre-eminent law firms. Zander is the managing partner and one of the top trial lawyers in the nation. He is the only Montana lawyer admitted to the Inner Circle of Advocates, an association limited to 100 litigators in the United States. He was the only Montana lawyer to be admitted to the 100 Mountain States Super Lawyers of 2012. Zander also has been the Montana Trial Lawyers Association Trial Lawyer of the Year twice.

**Contact:** John Mudd, UM law school director of development, 406-243-4319, john.mudd@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Break out your traditional copper, silver and gold Griz gear and celebrate with the University of Montana during Homecoming 2015, Sunday through Saturday, Sept. 20-26.

This year’s theme, “A Tradition of Champions,” commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Montana Grizzlies’ first NCAA Division I-AA football national championship in 1995 and also celebrates the countless successes of UM students and alumni throughout the years.

The festivities get started with the Homecoming Kickoff Celebration from 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, at the Southgate Mall Clock Court. The event will include music, dancing and prizes and is sponsored by Southgate Mall, Missoula’s 102.5 Mountain FM, Liberty Mutual Insurance, UM and the UM Office of Alumni Relations.

The Homecoming Art Fair runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Sept. 24-25, in the University Center Atrium.

The public is invited to attend the Homecoming Dinner at the Food Zoo in the Lommasson Center at 5 p.m.
Thursday. The cost is $8.44 per person.

The 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients will be honored at a ceremony and reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, in the UC Ballroom. The 2015 recipients are John Grotzinger, Jennifer Isern, Sheila MacDonald Stearns and Sidney Thomas.

The All-Alumni Social begins at 7 p.m. Friday at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown. Music will be provided by the UM Alumni Band from 7 to 9 p.m. in the ballroom, with a break to see the UM Marching Band perform between 9 and 9:30 p.m. in the atrium. The Alumni Jazz Band will play from 10 p.m. to midnight at the Brooks and Brown restaurant, adjacent to the atrium. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Yell Night Pep Rally gets underway at 8 p.m. Friday on the UM Oval, with the lighting of the M at dusk. Join Grizzly cheerleaders, the UM Marching Band and Monte for a bonfire, Singing on the Steps and a fireworks display.

The eighth annual Homecoming Hustle 5K race starts at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at the intersection of Higgins and Broadway downtown, just before the annual Homecoming Parade.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday and travels south on Higgins to University Avenue. Parade applications must be submitted online at http://www.grizalum.org before 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11. This year’s honorary parade marshal is former UM football head coach Don Read, who coached the Grizzlies for 10 years and led them to the 1995 national championship. Around 30 players from the 1995 team will join Read in leading the parade through downtown Missoula.

Alumni are invited to join fellow Griz fans at the UMAA-sponsored Alumni Homecoming Tailgate from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday in tailgate spot 2 in the River Bowl, on the east side of parking lot M. Drop by before the football game to enjoy food, beverages and prize drawings.

The Montana Grizzlies take on the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks at 2 p.m. Saturday at the annual Homecoming football game in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

For a complete schedule of Homecoming events, visit http://www.grizalum.org or call the UM Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association at 406-243-5211.

Contact: Angela Weisenburger, events coordinator, UM Office of Alumni Relations, 406-243-5211, angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu.
UM Invites Alumni, Community to Reconnect Sept. 20-26 at Homecoming - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Dining has surpassed $1 million in local food purchases this past year for the first time since the 2003 inception of the UM Farm to College Program. For fiscal year 2015, UM Dining purchased $996,099 from FTC partners and more than $5,000 of food grown in UM Dining’s garden, totaling more than $1 million.

UM Dining Director of Marketing Sam Belanger said the FTC Program highlights UM’s dedication to state and local economies while providing fresh, healthy food to the campus community.

“Purchasing regional food supports local economies, strengthens local communities, preserves a community’s natural and cultural heritage and positively impacts the environment,” Belanger said. “FTC’s success highlights the possibilities and benefits of local food purchasing and is paving the way for other large-scale food service venues to purchase locally.”

UM Dining spent an additional $234,154 on sustainable foods in fiscal year 2015, rounding out a total $1.2 million in local and sustainable food. These purchases account for more than 31 percent of UM Dining’s total food budget, and it’s an increase of nearly 7 percent since last year.
Through UM’s FTC Program, UM Dining partners with 138 local farmers, ranchers and food producers. UM takes pride in working with local producers who make the effort to create or produce products in an environmentally sustainable way. For more information call Belanger at 406-243-5089 or email samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Sam Belanger, UM Dining director of marketing, 406-243-5089, samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Kyra Jean Williams Farm to College Fall Feastival celebrating Montana’s food cycle will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, on the Oval at the University of Montana. The annual harvest feast provides community members a glimpse into UM’s Farm to College Program, as well as a holistic view of Montana’s agricultural food cycle. Montana farmers, ranchers and food producers will provide all the menu items.

“Our goal is to celebrate the success of the UM Farm to College Program and to raise public and student awareness about the time and effort required to produce the foods we eat each day,” UM Dining Director Mark LoParco said.

The organizers aim to complete the sustainable food cycle by pulping and processing all pre- and post-consumer waste generated by the event – including food, plates and napkins – into soil-enhancing material within 48 hours. The soil-ready material provides the starting point for the next growing cycle.

Two years ago, UM Dining renamed the Farm to College Fall Feastival to honor the memory of Kyra Jean Williams, who tragically passed away in an auto accident in August 2013. Williams began working with UM Dining in 2008 as
an AmeriCorps Vista volunteer after graduating from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, with a bachelor of arts degree. As the UM Farm to College Program’s coordinator, she planned and implemented the first Fall Feastival. The Feastival was such a success that it became an annual celebration.

UM Dining is a national pioneer in advocating the benefits of buying and eating local, sustainable foods. The UM Farm to College Program will celebrate its 12th anniversary this spring. At the Feastival, UM Dining also will celebrate reaching the million-dollar mark in local food purchases for the first time since the UM Farm to College Program’s inception in 2003.

For more information and event pricing, visit [http://www.umt.edu/dining/Special%20Events/fall_feastival/default.php](http://www.umt.edu/dining/Special%20Events/fall_feastival/default.php).

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**Contact:** Sam Belanger, UM Dining director of marketing, 406-243-5089, samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Host Annual Constitution Day Lecture

September 09, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will celebrate the 228th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution by hosting a lecture by a leading scholar in constitutional law and theory.

Harvard Law School Professor Mark Tushnet will deliver “Varieties of Constitutionalism: The U.S. Version” at noon Thursday, Sept. 17, in Law Building Room 101. The annual Constitution Day lecture is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at UM.

Tushnet is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law at Harvard, where he teaches constitutional law and related courses. He graduated from Harvard University and Yale Law School, after which he served as a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Tushnet is one of the leading skeptics of judicial review and was an early voice in the critical legal studies movement. He also writes about constitutional history, with works on the development of civil rights law in the United States and, currently, a long-term project on the history of the Supreme Court in the 1930s. Tushnet has written more than 30 books, including several leading casebooks, and dozens of articles in leading journals.
Constitution Day, also known as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, commemorates the Sept. 17, 1787, formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution and recognizes all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens. Under federal law, civil and educational institutions “are urged to make plans for the proper observance of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and for the complete instruction of citizens in their responsibilities and opportunities as citizens of the United States and of the state and locality in which they reside.”

Contact: UM Office of the Provost, 406-243-4689, officeoftheprovost@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana Department of Physics and Astronomy invites the public to its fall planetarium shows in the Payne Family Native American Center Star Gazing Room. The 50-minute shows will be offered at 6:30 and 8 p.m. two Fridays each month throughout September, October and November, and once in December.

The following dates will feature fall planetarium shows: Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23 (8 p.m. showing only), Nov. 6, Nov. 20 and Dec. 4.

Tickets cost $6 for adults and $4 for children ages 12 and younger. Tickets are limited and must be purchased ahead of time at online at http://www.eventbrite.com/e/star-gazing-room-fall-planetarium-show-tickets-18418210363?ref=ebtnebtckt.

Each program will take attendees on a tour of the current night skies of Missoula, pointing out noteworthy objects, constellations, planets or upcoming events visible in the night sky. The show then will shift to an engaging topic, or set of topics, chosen by that evening’s presenter.

The maximum capacity for public shows is 25 people. Events may sell out quickly. Attendees should plan to be
present 10 minutes before the beginning of the show, as the planetarium entrance will be locked after the show begins.

For more information about the fall showings or about booking a group event, visit http://cas.umt.edu/physics/Outreach/default.php.

Contact: Mark Reiser, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy outreach coordinator, 406-243-2074, mark.reiser@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – An internationally award-winning cellist will open the 2015-16 University of Montana President’s Lecture Series on a musical note, with a combined lecture and concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, in the Music Recital Hall at UM. The event is free and open to the public.

Matt Haimovitz, associate professor at McGill University’s Schulich School of Music in Montreal, Canada, will present “The Changing Face of Classical Music” in collaboration with the String Orchestra of the Rockies.

Born in Israel, Haimovitz made his first recording at 17 years of age, along with James Levine and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He since has performed with esteemed conductors across the world, with a 20-year recording career encompassing award-winning work on labels including Deutsche Grammophon and his own Oxingale Records.

In 2006, Haimovitz received the Concert Music Award from the American Society of Composers for his pioneering spirit and advocacy of living composers. The American Music Center awarded him the Trailblazer Award in 2014 for his far-reaching contributions to American music. He also has received the Avery Fisher Career Grant (1986), the
Internationally Acclaimed Cellist to Open 2015-16 President’s Lecture Series - UM News - University Of Montana


Haimovitz studied in New York City at the Juilliard School in the final class of legendary cellist Leonard Rose, and at the Collegiate School. He continued his cello studies with Ronald Leonard and Yo-Yo Ma. In 1996, he graduated from Harvard University with highest honors and a Bachelor of Arts degree.

In addition to mentoring an award-winning studio of young cellists at the Schulich School of Music, Haimovitz tours internationally with his Venetian cello, which was made in 1710 by Matteo Gofiller.

In addition to the concert/lecture, Haimovitz will perform “Sweet’ Italienne” with the String Orchestra of the Rockies at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, in UM’s Music Recital Hall. Tickets are available at all GrizTix locations, by phone at 1-888-MONTANA and online at http://www.griztix.com. For more information visit http://www.sormt.org/.

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

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**Contact:** Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.
Internationally Acclaimed Cellist to Open 2015-16 President’s Lecture Series - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Researcher Receives $3.8M Grant to Investigate Therapeutics for Neurotoxic Chemical Exposure

September 08, 2015

MISSOULA – A new, five-year $3.8 million grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke has been awarded to a research team led by University of Montana Professor Chuck Thompson.

The grant will be used to support research that investigates new chemical and imaging technologies to understand how poisonous chemical agents known as organophosphates (OPs) enter the brain and how antidotes and therapeutics can be used to reduce neurotoxic effects to OP exposure.

Thompson's research team includes Henry VanBrocklin from the University of California, San Francisco; Kurt Zinn from University of Alabama at Birmingham; and John Gerdes from the Southern Research Institute.

Companies historically have used OPs as pesticides, but they also are major components of chemical nerve agents...
used by terrorist groups and rogue nations. The investigation will draw from the researchers’ collaborative expertise to transform the toxic OPs into safe, beneficial imaging technologies that lead to highly useful clinical tools and therapeutic inventions.

Central to the award is the use of positron emission tomography imaging to evaluate OP exposures and the efficacy of the therapeutics. PET imaging is widely used in cancer diagnosis and to determine the progress of certain neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s. However this research is the first to use PET imaging to study toxic OPs. The researchers are hopeful their PET imaging investigation will unveil important brain characteristics about susceptibility to toxic agents while guiding drug development to halt or reverse toxic effects following OP exposure.

Contact: Chuck Thompson, professor, UM Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences, 406-243-4643, chuck.thompson@mso.umt.edu.
UM Test Center Earns National Recognition

September 08, 2015

MISSOULA – With millions of educational, certification and licensure tests administered in the United States every year, the need for secure testing environments and trained staff has never been greater. The University of Montana’s Testing Services office recently was awarded Test Center
Certification by the National College Testing Association – becoming a leader in excellent testing practices and setting the bar high for other postsecondary testing sites.

The criteria to earn the certification are rigorous. They were developed by NCTA, based on its professional standards and guidelines, to guide postsecondary test centers in the delivery of quality testing programs.

UM Testing Services is one of the few test centers in the U.S. and Canada to have completed this intensive certification process. This certification will be in place for five years and can be renewed by demonstrating continued compliance to national standards.

For more information on the types of tests UM offers visit http://www.umt.edu/testing/.

NCTA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of professionalism and high quality service in the administration of testing programs. It offers certification to college and university test centers that demonstrate exemplary practices.

Contact: Tammi Flickinger, testing coordinator, UM Career Services, 406-243-2175, tammi.flickinger@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Host Sexual Violence Prevention Summit

September 04, 2015

MISSOULA – The Not in Our State Sexual Assault Statewide Summit will take place Sunday through Tuesday, Nov. 8-10, at the University of Montana. The fourth annual summit will bring together students, higher education leaders and community professionals to learn best practices surrounding interpersonal and sexual violence prevention and advocacy.

Members of Montana universities and their surrounding communities will learn how to empower survivors of interpersonal and sexual violence and create an oppression-free campus climate. Attendees will learn how to provide a safe, supportive campus and community through education and primary prevention initiatives.

The summit will include keynote and concurrent sessions. Participants can register online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/events/NotInOurStateSexualAssaultSummit/default.php. The summit costs $65 for nonstudents and is free to students. It includes breakfast and lunch on Monday and Tuesday.

The NIOS planning committee is accepting proposals from individuals and organizations interested in presenting an educational session at the summit. Organizers are looking for new and innovative approaches that campuses and
Proposals are due Monday, Sept. 14, and can be submitted online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/events/NotInOurStateSexualAssaultSummit/sessionproposals1.php Accepted applicants will be notified by Oct. 1.

For more information email Kim Brown Campbell, campus assault prevention coordinator, at kim.browncampbell@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Kim Brown Campbell, campus assault prevention coordinator, 406-243-4104, kim.browncampbell@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Offer Free Digital Accessibility Course to Small-Business Owners

September 04, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host a free course on digital accessibility for small-business owners in Missoula from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 14, in the conference room at MonTEC, located at 1121 E. Broadway St.

The course will cover the basics of Web accessibility, as well as how to provide accessible documents and video captioning online. Computers will not be provided, but Wi-Fi will be available for participants to access on their own devices.

The course is limited to 25 participants, and interested small-business owners should call 406-243-3482 to reserve a spot.

Course instructors will include UM faculty and staff who provide digital accessibility for the campus community. The course is sponsored by UM’s Americans with Disabilities Act team, the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility group, UMOnline and Information Technology.

For more information call Barb Seekins, chairwoman of UM’s ADA team, at 406-243-6183 or email

UM to Offer Free Digital Accessibility Course to Small-Business Owners - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Barb Seekins, chairwoman, UM Americans with Disabilities Act team, 406-243-6183, seekinsbh@mso.umt.edu.
Author of First-Year Reading Experience Book to Speak at UM

September 04, 2015

MISSOULA – Award-winning author John Vaillant will visit the University of Montana this month to discuss his book, “The Tiger,” the 2015 selection for UM’s First-Year Reading Experience.

Vaillant will speak about his book to the campus community at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, in the Dennison Theatre. The lecture is free and open to the public. He also will hold a special Q-and-A forum for first-year students at 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, in the University Center Theater.

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

“The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival” details the hunt for a man-eating Amur tiger in the remote Primorye region of Russia’s eastern border in the 1990s. The nonfiction work was published in 2010 and addresses conservation and natural resources; culture and place; and the human-environment relationship, among other themes.
“The Tiger” earned the British Columbia National Award for Canadian Nonfiction, CBC Book Award for “Best Overall Book,” Hubert Evans Nonfiction Prize, Banff Mountain Festival Special Jury Award, CBA Libris Award for Nonfiction, Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award and Prix Nicolas Bouvier. In 2014, Vaillant received a Donald Windham-Sandy M. Campbell Literature Prize in Nonfiction.

The book will be used and referenced in classes across campus. It is available for purchase at The Bookstore at UM, located in the UC.

Vaillant is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic, National Geographic and Outside, among others. His first book, “The Golden Spruce,” was a best-seller and won several awards, including the Governor General’s Award for Nonfiction (Canada). His latest book, a novel, is “The Jaguar’s Children.”

First-year UM students are invited to participate in a writing contest based on the book and interactions with the author during his campus visit.

For more information, visit http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/fyreading or email UM’s First-Year Reading Experience Chair Megan Stark at megan.stark@umontana.edu.

Contact: Megan Stark, undergraduate services and outreach librarian, 406-243-2864, megan.stark@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana students looking for volunteer opportunities can explore their options during the Fall Volunteer Fair on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 15-16. Hosted by UM’s Office for Civic Engagement and the student group Volunteers In Action, the fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days in the University Center Atrium.

Students and community members can learn about numerous volunteer opportunities available in the Missoula area from nearly 30 community agencies, which will have the chance to recruit new volunteers. The Office for Civic Engagement also will provide information about several of its programs during the fair.

Every year at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters, the Office for Civic Engagement and Volunteers in Action coordinate a volunteer fair to connect interested students, UM faculty and staff, and other members of the community with volunteer opportunities in the Missoula area. The fair helps nonprofit agencies promote their activities and recruit new members to help meet community-identified needs.

The Office for Civic Engagement is a department of the Davidson Honors College. It was founded as Volunteer
Action Services at UM in 1992 and serves as the University’s primary agent of community activism and civic responsibility.

**Contact:** Colleen Kane, director, UM Office for Civic Engagement, 406-243-5531, colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Tanner Hall, Henrik Harlaut, Phil Casabon and other extreme athletes will be available to meet their fans and sign autographs during “The Inspired Ski Movie Tour” on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at the University of Montana.

The event, which includes movie screenings and giveaways, starts at 8 p.m. in the Dennison Theatre. Tickets cost $10 in advance, $12 for students with identification the day of the show and $15 for the general public the day of the show. All seats are general admission and available at all GrizTix outlets or at http://www.griztix.com.

“The Inspired Ski Movie Tour” offers a mixture of ski films and athletes with a gathering of like-minded individuals getting ready for ski season. Fans can meet many of their favorite athletes and watch ski movies on the big screen in the company of their peers.

Movies will include the exclusive trailer releases of “BE Inspired” by Casabon and Harlaut, “Ring the Alarm” by Hall, “In Search” by Kye Petersen and “The Masquerade” by Super Proof Inc.

Fans also can get their favorite items signed or take home a personalized signed poster. They are encouraged to follow Inspired Media Concepts on social media for the latest information on tour stops and how to win special
‘Inspired Ski Movie Tour’ Coming to UM - UM News - University Of Montana

prizes.

For more information, visit http://www.inspiredskimovietour.com or http://inspiredmedia.tv.

Contact: Tom Webster, UM Dennison Theatre director, 406-243-2853, thomas.webster@umontana.edu.
UM Welcomes New Entertainment Management Program Director

September 04, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s School of Business Administration has a new face in the spotlight at its Entertainment Management program. Mike Morelli, who has more than 30 years of experience in the entertainment industry, was hired as UMEM director during the summer.

Morelli spent the past five years in Ohio as general manager of the Performing Arts Center at Kent State University at Tuscarawas.

“I consider this a dream job as it enables me to use my business experience,” Morelli said. “It speaks to my performing and directing interest and is in line with my academic training.”
Morelli said he hopes to build on the solid reputation of the UMEM program. He would like to grow the UMEM certificate program by partnering with departments across campus to offer additional courses to students from other programs, including performing arts, fine arts, media arts and journalism. Additionally, Morelli wants to implement a sports management option for UMEM students, which has been a goal for the program and its founders.

He said one particular advantage of UMEM is its connected internship program.

“I am impressed by its academic integrity and the incredible opportunities it provides students to learn from giants in the industry,” he said.

UMEM students intern with big-name bands, talent agencies, film studios, production houses, major entertainment organizations and sports organizations, as well as nonprofit professional associations in places like London, Las Vegas, New York City, Los Angeles and Nashville, Tennessee.

“Many of these internships lead to permanent employment for students,” Morelli said. “I am proud to be part of this well-respected and very fine program.”

Contact: Tammy Yedinak, executive assistant to the dean, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-6195, tammy.yedinak@mso.umt.edu; Mike Morelli, UM Entertainment Management program director, 406-243-5695, mike.morelli@umontana.edu.
UM News

UM Professors Work with NASA to Examine Climate Change Impacts

September 03, 2015

MISSOULA – As part of a broad effort to study the environmental and societal effects of climate change, NASA has begun a multiyear field campaign to investigate ecological impacts of the rapidly changing climate in Alaska and northwestern Canada, such as the thawing of permafrost, wildfires and changes to wildlife habitats. Two University of Montana professors will contribute to the study.

The Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABoVE) will bring together on-the-ground research with data collected by NASA airborne instruments, satellites and other agency programs.

John Kimball, UM professor of systems ecology, was a member of the original team that developed the NASA ABoVE scoping study. His role in the project will be to investigate the magnitude pattern and seasonality of greenhouse gas exchanges, including CO2 and methane, across Alaska and northwest Canada. He will investigate how recent warming trends and wildfires influence permafrost thawing and potential release of stored carbon to the atmosphere, which could further intensify global warming.

“Boreal forests and tundra are critical for understanding the ecological impacts of Earth’s changing climate,” said
Jack Kaye, associate director for research in NASA's Earth Science Division in Washington. “These ecosystems hold a third of the carbon stored on land – in trees, shrubs and the frozen ground of the permafrost. That’s a lot of potential greenhouse gases in play. We need to better understand these ecosystems and how a warming climate will affect forests, wildlife and communities both regionally and globally.”

Kimball will use a range of new satellite observations in conjunction with more detailed airborne data and field studies to assess recent environmental changes and impacts.

The ABoVE projects also will study impacts on the wildlife of Alaska and northern Canada, including habitat and migration changes for raptors, songbirds, Dall sheep, moose, caribou, wolves and brown bears.

UM Associate Professor Mark Hebblewhite will serve as a co-investigator of another part of the project. He will study how animals are faring in this rapidly warming region.

Hebblewhite, an associate professor of ungulate habitat ecology in UM’s Wildlife Biology Program, will study how both terrestrial and avian animals respond to changing habitats and environments. He’ll look at caribou, the most abundant long-range migratory herbivores in the Northern Hemisphere, as well as robins, thrushes and golden eagles. Golden eagles from Montana often will travel as far north as the Arctic to breed in summer, while robins and thrush that pass through Montana may also end up in the northern reaches of western Canada and Alaska. The research team, led by Natalie Boelman from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University, will look at the vulnerability whole wildlife communities face when presented with higher temperatures, altered vegetation productivity and other changes.

“This project builds on our strength in linking applied science with remotely sensed data,” Hebblewhite said. “This region is among many on the planet undergoing rapid climate change and we’re studying how those changes impact both animal and human communities.”

He notes the important role caribou, moose and other mammals play in the cultural and socioeconomic lives of native peoples in this region.

Contact: John Kimball, UM professor of systems ecology, 406-243-4922, john.kimball@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society named the University of Montana one of the 36 collegiate winners for the Gold Torch Award.

“Gold Torch chapters add considerably to Mortar Board’s standing,” said Jane Hamblin, Mortar Board’s executive director. “We are proud that they are providing high-impact educational programs for their campus communities. That’s what Mortar Board is all about.”

Mortar Board is a national honor society that acknowledges college seniors for achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Mortar Board gives its members the opportunity to continue to develop leadership skills, encourage service to universities and emphasizes contributing globally. Notable members include former United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and award-winning actor Marion Ross.

For more information email Ashley Strandberg, UM Mortar Board chapter president, at ashley.strandberg@umontana.edu.
Contact: Ashley Strandberg, UM Mortar Board chapter president, ashley.strandberg@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Are you curious what the air we breathe during fire season looks like under the microscope?

From 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, visitors to the University of Montana’s spectrUM Discovery Area can explore healthy and smoke-afflicted lungs, learn about the equipment scientists use to test air quality, and create decorative microscope slides with feathers, glitter and leaves.

Emily Weiler, a research specialist at UM’s Center for Environmental Health Sciences, will lead the air-quality activities and demonstrations at spectrUM’s Discovery Bench. A UM graduate with a degree in chemistry, Weiler specializes in air quality and respiratory disease research and serves as a pollen counter for Montana.

“We’re thrilled to have a scientist and a UM alumna engaging students in this very timely and important research on smoke and air quality,” said museum coordinator Nick Wethington.

Inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in downtown Missoula. Through in-museum and mobile programs, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans.
During Montana’s Fire Season, SpectrUM to Host Air Quality Event - UM News - University Of Montana

annually. Its innovative, community-based approach to STEM engagement has garnered awards from the Simons Foundation and through the Noyce Foundation’s Bright Lights award competition.

SpectrUM’s sponsors and partners include the UM Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, Community Medical Center, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Jane S. Heman Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program, NISE Network, the Noyce Foundation, the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation, SciGirls, the Simons Foundation and the Western Montana Area Health Education Center. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has given the gift of science to more than 12,000 Montana children.

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.-5 p.m. Saturday. The air quality event is free with museum admission, which costs $3.50 per person.

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Contact: Nick Wethington, spectrUM museum coordinator, 406-728-7836, nicholos.wethington@umontana.edu.
UM Alumnus to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award at Montana Book Festival

September 02, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Creative Writing Program will present author Rick DeMarinis, a 1967 UM alumnus, with its Lifetime Achievement Award during the Montana Book Festival, Sept. 9-12. The award will be presented at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Holiday Inn Downtown Garden City Ballroom D, located at 200 S. Pattee St. A panel discussion will follow.

DeMarinis has written ten novels and seven collections of short fiction. His novel “Year of the Zinc Penny” (Norton, 1989) is a New York Times Notable Book. His short stories have appeared in several noteworthy journals, including Esquire, The Atlantic Monthly, Harpers, GQ, The Paris Review and The Iowa Review. After receiving his Master of Arts
degree from UM in 1967, he taught creative writing for 25 years as a professor at San Diego State University, Arizona State University and the University of Texas at El Paso. He served as a visiting writer at a number of prestigious writing programs, most recently the Master of Fine Arts program at UM in 2002.

“Rick DeMarinis is one of our most accomplished-yet-unsung literary heroes,” said Annick Smith, who will moderate the panel. “His large body of work is funny and heartbreaking, finely written and totally original. We need to sing his praises.”

DeMarinis will answer questions after the award presentation. He also will join a panel to discuss his work and life and the impact it has had on others. Writers Bill Kittredge, Jon Jackson, Lois Welch and Kevin Canty also will sit on the panel.

“Rick DeMarinis, since I came to Missoula 45 years ago, has been one of our finest, and best thought-of, writers,” Kittredge said. “The highlight reel from those early years features Dick Hugo, Jim Welch, Jim Crumley and Rick DeMarinis. The others are gone, Rick isn’t. Let’s celebrate one of our last, best friends and talents while he’s still around.”

The DeMarinis panel is one of three festival panels hosted by the Creative Writing Program. UM faculty, students and alumni are involved in all aspects of the festival, including planning, giving readings and moderating events.

Also on Saturday, author Charles D’Ambrosio will read prose as part of the festival. D’Ambrosio, a recipient of a Whiting Writer’s Award and a Lannan Fellowship, among other honors, is the author of two books of fiction and two essay collections. He teaches fiction at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. The reading begins at 7 p.m. in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room.

More information on the Montana Book Festival is online at https://montanabookfestival2015.sched.org/speaker/rickDeMarinis#.VeTFlflVhBc. To learn more about the Creative Writing Program, call Karin Schalm, program coordinator, at 406-243-5267, email karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu or visit http://www.hs.umt.edu/creativewriting/.

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UM Alumnus to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award at Montana Book Festival - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu.
Neighborhood Ice Cream Social Dishes Out Fun Sept. 13

September 02, 2015

MISSOULA – The 14th Annual University Community Ice Cream Social to welcome all new and returning University of Montana students to campus and Missoula's neighborhoods is set for Sunday, Sept. 13. The free event will run from 3 to 5 p.m. in the 400 block of University Avenue.

The street party will feature live music from the hillbilly jazz band Barnaby Wilde and appearances by UM Mascot Monte and city and UM leaders. Participants can mingle with neighbors, browse informational tables and enjoy delicious, locally crafted Big Dipper ice cream. Sorbet also will be available.

The event was started in 2002 by an informal group that calls itself the Thoughtful Neighbors to celebrate the diversity that UM students bring to Missoula. Late neighborhood residents Don Simmons, former associate dean of the School of Fine Arts, and his wife, Pat, former executive director of the Missoula Downtown Association, were founding members. The group, recipients of the City of Missoula's 2015 Outstanding Neighborhood Group Volunteer award, is an evolving mix of University Neighborhood homeowners and residents, UM students and administrators, the Associated Students of UM, the UM Foundation and the UM Office of Alumni Relations.
Contact: Jean Woessner, media chairwoman, Thoughtful Neighbors/Ice Cream Social, 406-721-3540, jwoessner@bigsky.net.
MISSOULA – Paul Gladen, director of the Blackstone LaunchPad at the University of Montana, recently was named CEO of the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs. In both capacities he helps students jumpstart their own businesses.

“This is an exciting time for entrepreneurship at UM,” Gladen said.

The Kauffman Foundation ranked Montana the No. 1 state in the nation for startup activity for the third year in a row.

Last spring, sponsor contributions to the
statewide John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge, organized by MADE, increased 50 percent, enabling the organization to offer $50,000 in prize money.

“The numerous judges, coaches and audience members commented that the quality of the ideas and pitches were the highest they have seen,” Gladen said.

MADE members voted last week to expand its mission from focusing on School of Business Administration students to encompass all UM students and entrepreneurial talent across the state. The members also elected Dori Gilels, chief operating officer and publisher of Mamalode, as chairwoman. Dawn McGee, CEO of Goodworks Ventures; Jeremy Brown of Dorsey & Whitney; and Kellan Carter of Ignition will serve on the MADE executive committee.

MADE also planned a program of upcoming fall activities to provide students from all UM colleges and schools opportunities to explore entrepreneurship and engage and interact with Montana’s entrepreneurial community.

As part of that plan, Gladen will teach a course entitled Startups: A Real World Introduction, which will introduce students to the world of entrepreneurship and Montana startups in particular.

The course will use recordings of local entrepreneurs captured at the weekly 1 Million Cups Missoula meetings to analyze startup business models and identify opportunities and challenges encountered by startups. 1 Million Cups is an initiative of the Kauffman Foundation that provides startups with the chance to pitch their businesses to the local community.

Contact: Paul Gladen, director, Blackstone LaunchPad at UM, 406-396-3534, paul.gladen@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Top Master’s in Healthcare Administration ranked University of Montana’s online Master’s in Public Health program among the most affordable in the nation. The “50 Most Affordable Online MPH Programs 2015” lists UM’s program at No. 16. The full list can be found online at http://www.topmastersinhealthcare.com/best/affordable-online-mph-programs/.

The ranking calls the UM program “rigorous” and “comprehensive to say the least,” noting the requirements of a professional paper, practicum, full portfolio, numerous core courses and six elective credits.

“We were very pleased that the hard work and high standards of our MPH program faculty at the University of Montana are being recognized nationally,” said program chair Craig Molgaard. “The recognition letter specifically mentioned the academic rigor of the program and the three-course capstone sequence, so it was more than just an award based on cost. It also looked carefully at the quality of our online program and what a student’s dollar was buying.”

The ranking was based on a list of all the U.S. full graduate programs that offer a public health master’s degree via
distance education. The programs assessed were available at 90 percent or more online. The assessors used College Navigator to collect each school’s graduate program tuition rates and associated fees.

UM’s program is the state’s only nationally accredited master of public health program. It was fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health in July of 2012. An MPH degree prepares professionals to identify health problems and needs, consider mechanisms to meet those needs and assure the essential services to protect and promote health of individuals and populations. Graduates serve as competent practitioners, researchers and teachers who carry out broad health functions in local, state, national and international settings.

The program currently has 68 graduate students, 51 of whom are MPH students and 17 of whom are earning their Certificate in Public Health.

“Most certificate students go on to enroll in the MPH program after they finish their certificate,” Molgaard said, “which is evidence of high student satisfaction with our coaching, mentorship and instruction.”

For more information on UM’s program, visit [http://health.umt.edu/publichealth/](http://health.umt.edu/publichealth/).

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UM Mansfield Center Launches Fall 2015 Lecture Series

September 01, 2015

MISSOULA – The Mansfield Center at the University of Montana has announced its Fall 2015 Brown Bag Lecture Series for the community. The lectures reflect the center’s mission to promote an understanding of Asia, public affairs and ethics.

All sessions will be held from 12:10 to 1 p.m. The lectures are free and open to the public. The schedule follows:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 15:** “Transboundary Perspectives on Climate Change and Collaboration,” with visiting Fellows participating in the White House Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative on Environmental Issues, University Center Room 330/331.

- **Wednesday, Sept. 30:** “Deep in the Delta: Studying Climate Change in Vietnam,” with UM environmental studies Associate Professor Dan Spencer, Mansfield Center Conference Room.

- **Wednesday, Oct. 14:** “Collaborative Responses to Sexual Exploitation in our State,” with Katharina Werner, YWCA Pathways program manager, and Guy Baker, Missoula Police Department detective and FBI Safe...
Streets Task Force, University Center Room 331/332.

- **Wednesday, Oct. 28:** “The Enigma of Deng Xiaoping: Avatar of Reform or Butcher of Beijing?” with Steve Levine, UM Department of History research faculty associate and collaborator with primary author Alexander V. Pantsov on “Deng Xiaoping: A Revolutionary Life” (Oxford University Press, 2015), University Center Room 336.

- **Wednesday, Nov. 18:** “Peaceful Islam, or, Much Ado About ISIS,” with Abdelilah Bouasria, Arabic lead instructor at UM’s Defense Critical Language and Culture Program, University Center Room 326/327.

For more information and extended session descriptions, visit [http://umt.edu/mansfield/events/brownbaglectures](http://umt.edu/mansfield/events/brownbaglectures) or call 406-243-2988.

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UM Scientist Earns Grant to Study Carbon Across North America

September 01, 2015

MISSOULA – University of Montana researcher Ashley Ballantyne recently was awarded a nearly $300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study ecosystem carbon production and consumption across North America.

Ballantyne, an assistant professor of bioclimatology, will investigate how disturbances such as fire and insect infestation might be changing how the Earth absorbs carbon. The award comes from NSF’s Early Concept Grants for Exploratory Research and its National Ecological Observatory.
Network (NEON) programs.

Ballantyne previously has shown that terrestrial CO2 uptake appears to be increasing – but also is increasingly variable – due to disturbance. Some terrestrial landscapes might take up more carbon and some less, and overall North America may be shifting from being a net carbon sink to being a net carbon source.

Using models, Ballantyne and collaborators will simulate regional scale disturbance during the past 50 years to see how atmospheric CO2 responds. They’ll also compare real-world measurements of water and carbon to land-vegetation model simulations to evaluate how well NEON sites detect disturbances of varying severity.

“Disturbance is clearly affecting the carbon balance of ecosystems, especially across the western U.S.,” Ballantyne said. “By the end of the two-year research project, we hope to use model simulations to help optimize observation networks for detecting impact of disturbance on ecosystem carbon balance.”

NEON is a continental-scale observation network that examines ecological change over time. In August NEON announced $4.8 million in research awards to enable innovative biological research and foster collaboration for projects using NEON data.

Ballantyne’s collaborators include Ben Poulter at Montana State University and Bill Anderegg at Princeton University, as well as UM graduate student Annie Cooper.

Contact: Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, 406-243-6693.
UM Professor Cara Nelson Honored with Restoration Award

September 01, 2015

MISSOULA – The Society for Ecological Restoration recently recognized University of Montana Professor Cara Nelson for her contributions to the field of restoration by giving her its John Rieger Award.

Named for the Society’s first president, the John Rieger Award acknowledges those who have dedicated their time and skills to advancing the science and/or practice of ecological restoration through the development of SER.

Nelson, who directs the ecological restoration program at UM, serves as vice-chair of the society and has been a member for the past eight years.

According to SER, Nelson “has devoted countless volunteer hours and personal resources to the Society over these
past two years, and has contributed to the development of SER since joining the board in 2007 as the regional representative to Pacific Northwest, North America. She has been a strong and consistent advocate for students and was instrumental not only in expanding SER’s student association program, but also in adding a student representative position to the board of directors.

Nelson is also a longtime member of her local chapter, SER-Northwest, and serves on the editorial board for the journal Restoration Ecology. SER is an international organization with members from more than 70 countries who are engaged in the repair and recovery of degraded ecosystems.

For more information call Nelson at 406-243-6066 or email cara.nelson@umontana.edu.

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MISSOULA – Gov. Steve Bullock joined Missoula Mayor John Engen on Aug. 27 in Missoula to hand out Montana Innovator Awards. The Energy Technology Program at Missoula College University of Montana was among six entities recognized for its contributions to the state of Montana in an effort to “put the squeeze on climate change.”

Under the leadership of MC Associate Professor Bradley Layton, the Energy Technology Program introduces students to the full suite of energy systems and technologies – traditional and renewable – and prepares them for careers in the rapidly expanding energy industry. Missoula College is also building a brand-new, LEED-certified campus in Hellgate Canyon. Layton, his students and his alumni are working with local industries and inventors on renewable energy technologies and carbon pollution mitigation strategies.

Bullock presented the awards on behalf of Montanans for Good Jobs and Clean Air. The organization is a nonpartisan coalition of organizations and businesses united in support of leaders who, like Bullock, are committed to a responsible energy future.

“One of tomorrow’s most pressing challenges will be creating more good-paying jobs in our energy economy, while
at the same time keeping our Big Sky clean, our rivers cold, our agriculture thriving and our kids healthy," Bullock said.

The other Missoula-area recipients of the Montana Innovator Awards are:

- The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Energetechs
- Flathead Electric Cooperative
- MMW Architects
- Solar Plexus

**Contact:** Bradley Layton, assistant professor and director of Energy Technology Program, Missoula College, 406-203-2365, bradley.layton@umontana.edu.