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February 2016 news releases

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MISSOULA – Nick Ut, best known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning image that became known as “Napalm Girl,” will deliver a lecture on Wednesday, March 9, at the University of Montana. His visit is part of a nationwide centennial celebration of the Pulitzer Prizes.

The lecture is at 7 p.m. in the Alexander Blewett III School of Law Room 101. The event is free and open to the public.

Ut took his iconic “Napalm Girl” photo on June 8, 1972, while working for the Associated Press. The image became a tragic symbol of the Vietnam War. Ut became a photographer at age 16 just after the death of his brother, also an AP photographer, in Vietnam. Ut will discuss his career as a war photographer and how it shaped his life.

The lecture is part of the Pulitzer Centennial, which celebrates 100 years of journalism nationwide. The celebration continues throughout 2016. Thanks to visiting professor and former AP photo editor Sally Stapleton, the UM School of Journalism was able to coordinate Ut’s visit.
“Mention the Vietnam War and the subsequent thought is a visual – that of photojournalist Nick Ut’s ‘Napalm Girl’ Pulitzer Prize-winning image from 1972,” said Stapleton, the UM journalism school T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professor. “Joining us at the School of Journalism, Nick is graciously sharing his time and experiences in this year of milestones: his 50th anniversary of working with the Associated Press and the Pulitzer Prizes’ 100th anniversary yearlong celebration.”

Stapleton worked with the AP for 13 years as a deputy executive photo editor. She led teams of photographers that covered Princess Diana’s funeral, the Sept. 11 attacks, the 1994 Rwandan genocide and the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings. Coverage of the latter two events also won Pulitzer Prizes.

Founded in 1914, UM’s School of Journalism is now in its second century of preparing students to think critically, act ethically and communicate effectively. The Radio Television Digital News Association recently named it one of the “Top 10” journalism programs in the country. Check out the website at http://jour.umt.edu/.

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**Contact:** Alyssa Rabil, UM journalism school media and information coordinator, 406-243-4366, alyssa.rabil@mso.umt.edu.
UM Irish Studies Program to Host Festivities Throughout March

February 29, 2016

MISSOULA – For the Irish, the month of March is the time to celebrate achievements, traditions and the Irish legacy.

The Irish Studies Program at UM in partnership with the Friends of Irish Studies, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Missoula Irish Dance School and the community at large invite the public – especially Irish and lovers of all things Irish – to join in the celebration of a people and their culture.

The festivities begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, with a night of Irish music and song at UM’s Music Recital Hall. The guest performer is Doimnic Mac Giolla Bhríde from County Donegal. Born and raised in the Irish-speaking district of Gweedore, he was weaned on Irish music and song. He excelled on the accordion and uilleann pipes and caught the attention of local singers for his melodic and expressive voice. The beauty and power of this voice was nationally recognized in 2009 when he won the prestigious “Corn Ui Riada” award.

This is his first trip to the western United States. His performance in Missoula will include the accordion, uilleann pipes and traditional song. Tickets cost $15 for general admission, $10 seniors and Friends of Irish Studies members.
members, and $5 for students. Tickets are available at the door or online at http://www.friendsofirishstudies.com/.

The Friends of Irish Studies also will sponsor a talk on the historic relationship between Ireland and America. The speaker is David Fleming from Ireland’s University of Limerick, who is teaching at UM this spring as a Fulbright visiting professor in Irish history. The talk will take place at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 11, at the Kettlehouse Brewery Northside. Admission is free. The talk is part of the Friends’ plan to have the Irish Studies Program establish a stronger and more robust presence in the community.

St. Patrick’s Day celebrations will take place Saturday, March 12. The schedule follows:

- **8 a.m.**: Mass at St. Francis Xavier church, 420 W. Pine St.
- **11 a.m.**: Line up for the parade, Higgins Avenue
- **Noon**: Parade begins, Higgins Avenue
- **2 p.m.**: Irish whiskey tasting at The Rhino, 158 Ryman St.
- **2:30 p.m.**: Hurling game at Loyola Sacred Heart’s Rollin Field. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.
- **6 p.m.**: Great Irish Gathering, Banquet and Auction at the Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park. Tickets cost $30 and may be purchased at the door or online at http://www.friendsofirishstudies.com/.

The Great Irish Gathering will be an evening of Irish music, song and dance. It also is a great social event, giving many people the opportunity to meet up with old friends and to renew old acquaintances. All proceeds will support UM’s Irish Studies Program and promoting Irish culture in the community. All are invited to attend.

On Sunday, March 13, there will be a workshop on Irish traditional dance at Imagine Nation Brewery. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. The workshop begins at noon and runs until 3:30 p.m.

On Thursday, March 17, the St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be hosted at St. Anthony’s Parish Life Center at 217 Tremont St. The event begins at 6 p.m., and there will be Irish music, dance and singing as part of the celebration. Tickets cost $15 each or $25 for couples. For more information, call 406-543-3129.

For those interested in a firsthand Ireland experience, the Friends lead a small group on an intimate tour of the country every year. The trip is limited to 20 people to ensure the group can get to all those out-of-the-way places most tours can’t visit. It is led by UM Director of Irish Studies Traolach Ó Riordáin. For more information visit http://www.friendsofirishstudies.com/.

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**Contact:** Traolach O’Riordain, UM Irish Studies Program director, 406-243-6359, traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu
MISSOULA – Tickets are now on sale for the State Class A Boys’ Basketball Tournament. Competition tips off Thursday, March 3, at the Adams Center on the University of Montana campus and runs through Saturday, March 5.

The top eight teams from Class A will participate in this tournament. This is the first state boys’ tournament held in Missoula since 2004.

Games will take place in Dahlberg Arena inside the Adams Center. A complete schedule of games is available online at http://www.grizzix.com.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Adams Center Box Office and all GrizTix locations. Tickets also may be
purchased online at http://www.griztix.com or by calling 1-888-666-8262 during regular business hours. All-session adult passes cost $28 for reserved and $17 for students. Single session passes cost $8 for adult reserved, $7 for adult general admission, and $6 student general admission.

University parking lots P, Z, M and M1 will be reserved for Class A attendees and participants during session hours.

For more information, call the GrizTix Box Office at 406-243-4051.

Contact: UM Adams Center Box Office, 406-243-4051, griztix@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Calling all future pilots, drone enthusiasts, aeronautical engineers and astronauts: The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area is launching an aeronautics exhibit and field-trip program for K-12 learners.

During a 90-minute aeronautics field trip, students will explore flight using balance boards, foam gliders and paper airplanes; learn about Newton’s laws of motion and the purpose of airfoils in creating lift; and hone their flying skills on a flight simulator app. As a finale, students will have the opportunity to pilot a drone under an enclosed safety net.

An accompanying exhibit, which will include an interactive “Wind Wall,” will share aeronautics with visitors during museum public hours.

SpectrUM created the aeronautics exhibit and field-trip program with a recently awarded education enhancement grant from the Montana Space Grant Consortium and the Montana NASA Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research program. UM’s Autonomous Aerial Systems Office provided resources and training to incorporate drone education and flight into the field-trip program.
To extend the learning experience beyond the museum walls, teachers whose classes participate in an aeronautics field trip can book a free classroom visit from a UM faculty member or graduate student who will lead aeronautics activities and serve as a higher education and career role model. UM’s We Are Montana in the Classroom initiative will partner with spectrUM to match UM role models with participating K-12 classes.

Teachers interested in booking aeronautics field trips for their classes should call 406-728-STEM (7836). Field trips cost $75 for 1-15 students, $110 for 16-25 students and $150 for 26-35 students. Free and reduced-cost buses are available on request, and field-trip scholarships are available through spectrUM’s Science for All Fund.

To learn more about the aeronautics field-trip program, visit http://spectrum.umt.edu/education/FieldTrips/AeronauticsFieldTrips/default.php. The public can also visit spectrUM at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person.

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

UM Dining Ranks No. 1 in State, 84th Nationally in Campus Food Survey

February 25, 2016

MISSOULA - Whether it's the handmade meatloaf, macaroni and cheese or the abundance of fresh produce, those surveyed after dining at the University of Montana report a greater satisfaction than most college students.

According to the Niche 2016 Best College Food ranking, UM Dining is No. 1 in Montana and 84th out of 1,713 colleges and universities. UM was also the only Montana school to receive a grade of "A" in the Niche Campus Food category.

The National Association of College and University Food Services surveyed campus dining guests this past November and found that guest satisfaction related to food service at UM has increased since 2013.

The survey, which polled 1,869 people at UM, showed that on average guest feels they're getting more value out of their meal plans and are more satisfied with the healthy choices and nutritional content of food than guests at other universities. Ninety-three percent of those surveyed gave UM Dining an overall satisfaction rating of 3 or higher on a 5-point scale.
The survey showed UM Dining satisfaction ratings are higher than the national average in the categories of overall food, variety of healthy choices available, nutritional content, overall service, overall cleanliness, environmentally friendly practices and social ethical practices related to food.

"These guest ratings reflect UM Dining's commitment to serving healthy, delicious and sustainable food," said Mark LoParco, UM Dining director. "There are no surprise casseroles or mystery meats here. The vast majority of dishes served in the Food Zoo, UM Dining's all-you-care-to-eat dining center, are handmade. More than a third of the food served in UM Dining's venues is grown right here in Montana and purchased through the UM Farm to College Program."

Find the full survey results online at: https://colleges.niche.com/rankings/best-college-food/.

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Contact: Sam Belanger, director of marketing, UM Dining, 406-243-5089, sam.belanger@umontana.edu.
Spring Funding Opportunity Available for Asian Research at UM

February 25, 2016

MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana now offers UM faculty members and graduate students support for Asian-related research through the Yamaguchi Opportunity Fund.

The generous support of Akira Yamaguchi allows the University to award between $500 and $1,000 each fall and spring to faculty from all departments and schools for Asian studies research and 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, pretenure faculty members, although other faculty will be considered. Limited support may be available for outstanding research proposals from UM graduate students.

Interested faculty and students should submit a two-page proposal detailing the nature and cost breakdown of their request and explaining the impact the support will have on their research or teaching. The proposal must include a letter from a colleague in the field who is familiar with the applicant’s work and able to assess the merits of the research and a letter of support from a principal adviser.
The application deadline is Friday, March 25, and awards will be announced mid-April. Applications can be submitted to Caitlin Sager, Mansfield Center administrative assistant, at caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at UM promotes better understanding of the people and cultures of modern 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.

For more information on the Yamaguchi Opportunity fund, visit the Mansfield Center’s website at http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/default.php.

Contact: Abraham Kim, UM Mansfield Center director, 406-243-2988, abraham.kim@umontana.edu.
UM Autonomous Aerial Systems Office Celebrates Launch with Drone Fly-In on the Oval

February 24, 2016

MISSOULA – A new office at the University of Montana offers resources for researchers, entrepreneurs and hobbyists interested in using unmanned aerial systems, also known as drones.

The Autonomous Aerial Systems Office will celebrate its launch with a public fly-in on UM's Oval from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 3. Members of the public and the UM community are invited to bring their own UASs to practice flying under a closed safety net. AASO's small drones also will be available for the public to fly, and staff members will provide safety and flying instruction.

Part of the Broader Impacts Group in UM's Office of Research and Creative Scholarship, AASO was created to strengthen understanding and decision-making about UAS use in a constantly evolving research and regulatory environment; to establish the infrastructure and resources for sustainable UAS research and creative scholarship;
and to stimulate UAS-related innovation, entrepreneurship and workforce development in Montana.

“As the popularity of UASs grows in research and in recreation, UM can play a vital role in ensuring that Montanans have the knowledge and resources they need to use them,” said Jen Fowler, AASO director. “We’re responding to an urgent need for public awareness about safety and regulations, but our mission is to facilitate UAS use in support of UM research, creative scholarship and entrepreneurship.”

“The Autonomous Aerial Systems Office is a wonderful new development for UM and for Montana,” said Holly Truitt, director of UM’s Broader Impacts Group. “It opens access to new technologies and provides pathways into new research and learning opportunities, both for the UM community and for the public.”

AASO’s fly-in on the Oval is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring their drones. More information on AASO is online at http://www.umt.edu/aaso/.

Contact: Jennifer Fowler, director, University of Montana Autonomous Aerial Systems Office, 406-396-8085, jennifer.fowler@umontana.edu.
MMAC Exhibitions to Feature Three Celebrated Montana Artists

February 23, 2016

MISSOULA – Rarely seen works of art by three of Montana’s most celebrated artists will adorn the galleries of the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at the University of Montana from Thursday, March 3, to Saturday, April 23. The star-studded showcase will include several special events, tours and lectures.

Missoula artist and teacher George Gogas will be featured in the exhibition “George Gogas: Odyssey,” in the Meloy Gallery of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center at UM. Internationally renowned ceramicist Rudy Autio, former UM professor and chairman of art, will be paired with notable artist and teacher Henry “Hank”
Meloy in the exhibition, “Presence: Rudy Autio and Henry Meloy,” in the PAR/TV Center’s Paxson Gallery. An opening reception for both exhibitions will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 3, in the PAR/TV Center lobby.

In addition, special docent tours of the exhibitions are scheduled from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 4, and Thursday, April 7. The tours are free and open to the public.

From small prints to large canvases, the Gogas exhibition includes 16 pieces, surveying over 40 years of creative work. Several generous loans from private collections, including the artist’s personal collection, complement works within the MMAC Permanent Collection to trace the Gogas’ ahistorical style.

In “Judith Basin Encounter,” a series at the show’s center, Gogas imagines an exciting friendship between two men who actually never met: Charles M. Russell and Pablo Picasso. Gogas translates canvases by Russell into cubist compositions with specific quotations from Picasso’s art. His work transcends normal limitations of time and historical memory, such as “When Charlie and Pablo Overdrew at the ATM.”

The UM College of Visual and Performing Arts will celebrate Gogas as its honoree during its “Odyssey of the Stars” scholarship-raising event at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5, in UM’s Denison Theatre. The MMAC will open its galleries following the event during a reception in the PAR/TV Center lobby. For more information about this year’s “Odyssey of the Stars” event, call 406-243-4970 or visit
Gogas will deliver a public lecture from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 10, in the Meloy Gallery. The lecture is free and open to the public.

“Presence: Rudy Autio and Henry Meloy” considers distinct chapters in the careers of two major Montana artists whose explorations of form and material delved into the very nature of presence and absence in the work of art.

In the mid-1990s, Autio made an unusual foray into the technique of woodcut printmaking. Unlike the medium he is best known for — thrown, sculpted and glazed stoneware — printing from wooden blocks entails carving away material, leaving a printed design in the unworked wood. Rarely seen woodcut prints come together with paintings and ceramics in this exhibition, shedding light on this fascinating-yet-often-overlooked part of Autio’s career.
Autio once disputed the claim that imagery he incised into his glazed pots was secondary to abstract ceramic form, saying, “I think it’s a union of painting and sculpture that’s more important.”

In contrast to Autio’s woodcuts, for Meloy, the life of a work of art is brought about through action that is decidedly additive. In “Notebooks,” he once wrote, “The ‘stamp’ of art is balancing the books – bringing up to date, into the present – of the accumulated experience. A work of art, which is the crystallization of thought, once it has been given form and shape in the present, will always stay ‘alive.’”

The exhibition will present works from the MMAC Permanent Collection, as well as a generous loan from the Rudy and Lela Autio Estate, comprising a number of woodcut prints, large-scale paintings and ceramic plates. Drawings by Meloy were selected from the Henry Meloy Educational Trust permanent loan to MMAC.

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

Contact: Barbara Kostra, Montana Museum of Art & Culture director, 406-243-2019, [barbara.kostra@mso.umt.edu](mailto:barbara.kostra@mso.umt.edu).
MMAC Exhibitions to Feature Three Celebrated Montana Artists - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Big Sky Employment Fair Brings Employers, Recruiters to Campus

February 23, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host the 27th Annual Big Sky Employment Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, in the University Center Ballroom, where participants can meet with recruiters from local, regional, national and international companies. More than 70 employers with 130 recruiters will participate in the fair.

The fair, sponsored by the UM Office of Career Services, is free and open to all UM students, alumni and recently displaced UM employees. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

The event will offer recruiting opportunities for students in all academic disciplines, including professional full-time and part-time positions as well as summer jobs and internships. Many recruiters will return Thursday, Feb. 25, to interview students and alumni for open positions in their organizations.

Students and alumni can go online to http://www.umt.edu/career/CareerFairs/bsef/default.php to view a complete schedule and list of companies attending the fair, as well as add themselves to a mailing list. Through their Griz eRecruiting account, students also can see who will be on campus recruiting this semester and sign up for on-
UM Big Sky Employment Fair Brings Employers, Recruiters to Campus - UM News - University Of Montana

campus interviews being held the day after the fair and throughout spring semester. Students can contact the Office of Career Services to set up their free Griz eRecruiting account.

For more information call Career Services at 406-243-2022.

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**Contact:** Janay Whisman, recruiting coordinator, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-2239, janay.whisman@umontana.edu.
UM Lands Grant to Collaborate on Transforming Math, Science Education

February 23, 2016

MISSOULA – The Montana Office of Public Instruction has awarded a $139,176 Mathematics and Science Partnership grant to the University of Montana and several partner institutions.

UM will collaborate with Montana Tech, Montana State University and the Polson School District on the Mathematics and Science Partners for Leadership project, which seeks to transform mathematics and science teaching practices by equipping 20 Montana master teachers with the leadership skills, knowledge and networks needed to advance educational reform in their communities.

Multiple studies have shown that the collaboration and collegiality fostered through teacher leadership enhances the capacity for change and improvement at both the classroom and school levels.

“Elevating the teachers’ voice and influence in the policies and decisions that shape learning opportunities for students is essential if we want to advance school reform that successfully addresses the everyday challenges teachers and schools face,” said Lisa Blank, UM science education professor in UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. “Similar initiatives are now underway across the country at both the state and
Participating teachers will complete a yearlong leadership professional development program beginning with a summer institute designed to increase participants’ capacity to lead and foster change. Following this, each teacher will identify a strategic initiative for the next academic year that advances math and/or science learning in their classroom, building or district.

To support the strategic work, teachers will be partnered with a leadership mentor, participate in monthly online special interest forums, receive a $2,000 stipend, and participate in ongoing policy and decision-making activities sponsored by the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

UM mathematics education Professor David Erickson will work with Blank on the project. Program recruitment will begin March 1. Master teachers interested in participating can email Blank at lisa.blank@umontana.edu for more information.

Contact: Peter Knox, communications and outreach manager, UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, 406-243-4911, peter.knox@umontana.edu.
UM Physical Therapy Students to Host Massage Clinic Fundraiser

February 23, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Physical Therapy Student Association members will offer 20- and 40-minute massages throughout March as part of their biannual campus fundraising clinics.

The clinics will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. March 14-17, 21-24 and 28-31 in Skaggs Building Room 129. The massages are open to the public and cost $12 for a 20-minute massage and $20 for a 40-minute massage. Only cash or checks will be accepted as payment.

Proceeds directly support scholarships for UMPT students and will help them attend local and national conferences. UMPT students have traveled to the National Student Conclave to hear guest lecturers discuss new findings in the field of physical therapy and the Combined Sections Meeting to network for jobs and residencies and learn about different forms of treatment. Money raised through the fundraiser also goes toward PT students to study abroad in places such as South Africa, Thailand and Ethiopia.

Appointments are required and can be made by calling Caitlin Malinak, UM School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science administrative associate, at 406-243-4753.
Contact: Caitlin Malinak, UM School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science administrative associate, 406-243-4753, caitlin.malinak@umontana.edu.
UM Journalism School Alumna Wins Hearst Award

February 23, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana School of Journalism graduate Kaci Felstet recently placed sixth in the prestigious national Hearst Journalism Awards Program in the Multimedia One/Features category. Felstet’s piece, “Late Start,” was produced this past spring as part of the Native News Project, co-taught by Assistant Professor Jason Begay and Associate Professor Jeremy Lurgio.

“Late Start” tackles attendance issues at Rocky Boy’s Elementary School, located in the center of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation in north-central Montana. Originally, Felstet and her reporting partner, Courtney Anderson, had been researching teacher-retention rates, but realized the story’s core remained with the students.

“Kids weren’t getting the education that they needed,” Felstet said. “And that was something really close to our hearts.”

Begay and Lurgio chose the theme “Relationships” for their class in spring 2015. They challenged students to find unique, personal bonds that explored how people on reservations connect with each other, Begay said.
“It left a lot of room for us to branch out and find our own stories,” Felstet said.

She and Anderson traveled to the Rocky Boy’s Reservation during spring break and spent several days following their characters and gathering classroom footage at the elementary school. Felstet said the kindergarteners needed some time to get used to the cameras and stop making funny faces at them, but their patience paid off in the end.

“The hardest thing is that you can’t go back,” Felstet said. “You have to get everything you need in three or four days.”

That was where working as a team came in handy. Despite extensive background research and planning, Felstet and Anderson knew they need to stay both flexible and focused while in the field so they could find the true story, even if it was different from the one they had envisioned.

“Kaci was very organized. She knew what she needed, and she got enough to be able to adapt,” Lurgio said.

Felstet’s first exposure to video came from a summer internship with KRTV in her hometown of Great Falls, but she considers herself more of a photojournalist these days. She’s currently pursuing a master’s degree in economics at UM, which will not only diversify her education but also open up new doors to her as a journalist, especially regarding business and finance beats.

To stay familiar with her camera, Felstet decided to create a photo-a-week challenge for herself to keep her creativity fresh. The recent recognition of “Late Start” serves as another boost from the journalism world.

“Kaci has a great eye for shooting and producing multimedia packages,” Lurgio said. “She works extremely hard, and she was very dedicated to producing a professional caliber story. And that’s just what she did.”

Felstet and Anderson’s collaborative piece can be found on the Native News Project website at http://nativenews.jour.umt.edu/2015/, which features more stories from reservations in Montana.

Founded in 1914, UM’s School of Journalism is now in its second century of preparing students to think critically, act ethically and communicate effectively. The Radio Television Digital News Association recently named it one of the top 10 journalism programs in the country. For more information visit http://jour.umt.edu/.

Contact: Alyssa Rabil, UM School of Journalism media and information coordinator, 406-243-4366, alyssa.rabil@mso.umt.edu.
UM Journalism School Alumna Wins Hearst Award - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – The Big Sky Brain Project and the University of Montana’s spectrUM Discovery Area will host western Montana’s second annual Brain Bee competition on Saturday, Feb. 27, in the Skaggs Building at UM. The Brain Bee is a competitive Q-and-A event that allows area high school students to test their knowledge about the most complex organ in the body.

The first-place prize is a scholarship to compete at the U.S. National Brain Bee March 18-20 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

“Students from Missoula and surrounding areas have been busy studying for the competition since December,” said Amanda Duley, spectrUM BrainLab manager and Brain Bee event organizer. “Contestants have participated in a mock Brain Bee and are challenging and supporting each other’s knowledge, so the live Brain Bee portion should be a fun competition.”

Nineteen students from Corvallis, Frenchtown and Missoula currently are registered for the event. Registered participants are invited to attend free brain training workshops led by Duley, which include neuroanatomy.
laboratories using real brains, neurohistology with microscopes, brain imaging identification and a mock Brain Bee training for the live competition.

For a complete Brain Bee schedule or to learn more about the Brain Bee and the Big Sky Brain Project, visit http://www.umt.edu/brainbee/default.php or call Duley at 406-728-7836.

The Big Sky Brain Project and spectrUM also seek sponsors for the event, which is free to participants. Sponsors will be recognized in Brain Bee press and promotional materials, on the spectrUM website and in spectrUM’s downtown museum before the event and for several months after. Interested sponsors can call 406-728-7836 or visit http://www.umt.edu/brainbee/sponsor/how-to-sponsor.php to make an online pledge.

The International Brain Bee, founded by Dr. Norbert Myslinski, is a program of Mankind for International Neuroscience Development Inc. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Big Sky Brain Project is a partnership between the Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience and the spectrUM Discovery Area. It strives to increase neuroscience literacy in Montana’s K-12 students while putting the next generation of Montanans on the fast track to careers in STEM fields.

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 programming.

The spectrUM Discovery Area Downtown, located at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula, is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person. Teachers or schools may book a field trip to the spectrUM museum or arrange a stop on spectrUM’s mobile tour by calling 406-728-7836.

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**Note to media:** Media is invited to attend the Brain Bee. Find a schedule of event times at http://www.umt.edu/brainbee/about/2016%20Brain%20Bee%20Event%20Schedule.php.

**This release is online at:**

AD/js
Western Montana
022216brai

**Contact:** Amanda Duley, spectrUM and Big Sky Brain Project BrainLab manager, 406-728-7836, amanda.duley@umontana.edu.
Calgary Herald Reporter to Lecture on Canada’s New Environmental Policies

February 22, 2016

MISSOULA – Colette Derworiz, senior staff reporter at the Calgary Herald, will deliver the University of Montana School of Journalism’s Marjorie Nichols Lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 3, in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The lecture, titled “Canada’s Changing Climate,” focuses on the environment in southern Alberta, Canada, where Derworiz reported on wildlife, wildfires and water issues during her 17 years at the Herald. She won a National Newspaper Award for political reporting in 2005.

Associate Professor Henriette Lowisch, director of the graduate program in the UM School of Journalism, said the lecture’s subject matter is highly important.

“Canada just went through a change of government on the national as well as the provincial level, with potentially great ramifications for environmental policy,” Lowisch said. “I’m very excited to hear her speak; she’ll give us a close-up look on what changes to expect from the new governments north of the border in terms of the environment and natural resources.”
The lecture series is named for Marjorie Nichols, a 1966 graduate of the School of Journalism who distinguished herself in her native Canada by her widely read national political commentary. When she died of cancer in 1991 at age 44, she was one of Canada’s most influential journalists. UM awarded her its Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1988.

Founded in 1914, UM’s School of Journalism is now in its second century of preparing students to think critically, to act ethically and to communicate effectively. The Radio Television Digital News Association recently named it the eighth best college journalism program in the country.

To learn more about the School of Journalism, visit http://jour.umt.edu.

Contact: Alyssa Rabil, UM School of Journalism media and information coordinator, 406-243-2019, alyssa.rabil@mso.umt.edu.
UM Offers Students Alternative Spring Break Opportunity in Moab, Utah

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Office for Civic Engagement will off students an alternative spring break trip to Moab, Utah.

Students will work with Plateau Restoration Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to inspiring and involving the public in the long-term care of the Colorado Plateau landscapes through service and science-based learning adventures. Students will camp and volunteer in Arches National Park, working alongside restoration experts to remove invasive species, plant native plants, collect seeds and conduct other activities. They will learn about desert, mountain and riparian ecology, geology, wildlife, native plants and conservation issues affecting the area.

The trip costs around $300 per student, depending on final participant numbers. The trip will leave Missoula on Saturday, April 2, and return Sunday, April 10. Optional independent study credit may be available.

Participants must submit an application by 5 p.m. Friday, March 4. Applications are available online at http://www.dhc.umt.edu/oce/student-volunteer-programs/alternative-breaks.php or at the Office for Civic Engagement, located in Davidson Honors College Room 015.
For more information call Kellie Hofstetter, alternative breaks coordinator, at 406-243-5531 or email kjhof@comcast.net.

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Contact: Kellie Hofstetter, Office for Civic Engagement alternative breaks coordinator, 406-243-5531, kjhof@comcast.net.
MISSOULA – Award-winning author Monica Drake will deliver a fiction reading at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 3, in Payne Family Native American Center Room 105 at the University of Montana.

Drake is the author of the award-winning novel “Clown Girl,” as well as “The Stud Book.” She recently released “The Folly of Loving Life,” a collection of intertwined short stories. Her writing has...
Award-Winning Author Monica Drake to Read Her Fiction at UM - UM News - University Of Montana


The reading is sponsored by UM’s Creative Writing Program and the Programs of National Distinction. For more information on the reading, call Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing program coordinator, at 406-243-5267 or email karin.schalm@umontana.edu.

More information on UM’s Creative Writing Program, one of the University’s Programs of National Distinction, is online at http://hs.umt.edu/creativewriting/.

Contact: Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@umontana.edu.
Award-Winning Author Monica Drake to Read Her Fiction at UM - UM News - University Of Montana
Diversity Advocate, Former NFL Player Wade Davis to Speak at UM

February 22, 2016

MISSOULA - Public speaker and former NFL player Wade Davis will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10, in the University Center Ballroom at the University of Montana. The event is free and open to the public. Davis is a thought leader, writer and educator on gender, race and orientation equality.

Davis played professional football for the Tennessee Titans, the Washington Redskins and the Seattle Seahawks, as well as for two teams within the NFL Europe league. Starting in 2014, Davis became the NFL’s first diversity and inclusion consultant, focused on ensuring equality for LGBT individuals throughout the league.

In 2012, after publicly coming out, Davis was named the executive director of the You Can Play Project, an organization dedicated to ending discrimination, sexism and homophobia in sports. In conjunction with YCP, Davis works to develop curriculum, programming, training and conversations focused on inclusion and diversity.

For more information or to request an accommodation, call Adrianne Donald at 406-243-6029 or email adonald@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana student group Students in Communication and Hearing Working in Action will host its fourth Annual Spring Autism Conference from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 5, at Ruby’s Inn Missoula, located at 4825 N. Reserve St.

The conference is intended for those who are interested in learning more about the Autism Spectrum Disorder which currently is being diagnosed to one in every 68 people.

Speakers are UM Associate Professor Ann Garfinkle and Marie Middleton, family support specialist at Missoula’s child development center. Garfinkle will present “Motivating Students With Autism Spectrum Disorder to Learn” and Middleton will present “Applied Behavior Analysis Intervention Working in Team Collaboration.”

Organizers encourage both students and professionals to attend this event. To register or for more information on scholarships and continuing education opportunities visit http://www.mshaonline.org/ritecareschwa-4th-annual-autism-spring-conference/.
Contact: Jennifer K. Schoffer Closson, UM DeWit RiteCare clinic director, 406-243-5261, jennifer.closson@mso.umt.edu; Ashley Strandberg, vice president, Students in Communication and Hearing Working in Action, ashley.strandberg@umconnect.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Orion Berryman, an assistant professor in the University of Montana Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, recently received a CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation.

Berryman initially will receive $270,000 to aid in research expenses, and the grant will continue through the next five
years. His award is expected to total $675,000.

“The recognition is extremely fulfilling, and I’m honored to showcase some of the cutting-edge, student-driven research happening at the University of Montana," Berryman said. “This award affords the opportunity for us to highlight the recent state-of-the-art X-ray diffractometer that we brought to UM, thanks to funding also from the NSF. This success would not have been possible without generous support from the University and my colleagues.”

In his project, titled “CAREER: Fundamental Studies of Multidentate Halogen Bond Donors for Supramolecular Catalysis," Berryman designs molecules that complement the size and electrical charge of sulfur compounds to serve as catalysts in reactions containing sulfur and other polarizable molecules. His work has broad application, as reactions involving sulfur compounds are important in fields such as drug development, separation science, environmental remediation and crystal engineering.

“This research addresses whether interactions between molecules can be developed into a new genre of catalysis to inspire a new generation of scientists,” Berryman wrote in his grant proposal.

Berryman also uses 3-D printing for outreach and to teach students about chemical concepts, including molecular recognition, shape selectivity, X-ray diffraction and X-ray crystallography.

“We are very excited about 3-D printing the structures of molecules to teach students about spatial concepts related to chemistry,” Berryman said. “We are also working with the spectrUM science museum to integrate 3-D printing and crystallography to show kids how cool science really is.”

At UM, Berryman works in organic and inorganic chemistry, supramolecular chemistry and chemical biology. His laboratory focuses on new uses of noncovalent interactions and applying them to critical chemistry-related problems.

Berryman’s award marks the second CAREER grant this year awarded to a UM faculty member. The previous grant went to John McCutcheon from UM’s Division of Biological Sciences.
“Dr. Berryman is another example of the excellent new faculty at the University,” said Scott Whittenburg, vice president for research and creative scholarship at UM. “With typically 300 to 400 NSF CAREER awards annually across all universities in the country, the fact that the University of Montana received two awards this year is rare and a testament to the quality of the researchers being recruited to campus.”

The CAREER Program, also known as the Faculty Early Career Development Program, is the NSF’s most prestigious awards for junior faculty who are dedicated to integrating both research and education. CAREER grant awards range from $400,000 to $1 million, with around a 20 percent funding rate in the chemistry division.

For more information on CAREER grants, visit the National Science Foundation website at http://www.nsf.gov/.

Contact: Orion Berryman, assistant professor, UM Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, 406-243-6805, orion.berryman@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Employment and revenues in Montana’s high-tech industry are growing at rates seven times that of the statewide economy, with salaries in the high-tech sector increasing faster than other sectors, according to a recent study conducted by the University of Montana’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

The high-tech sector expects to add more than 940 net new jobs in 2016 that pay average annual salaries of $56,800 – over twice the median earning per Montana worker, as measured by the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.

BBER Director Patrick Barkey said the second annual study, commissioned by the Montana High Tech Business Alliance, serves as an important assessment of one of Montana’s fastest-growing and highest-paying industry clusters.
“Growth projected in high-tech businesses significantly exceeds average statewide economic growth,” Barkey said. “Median annual wages are much higher than in other sectors.”

“For the second year running, BBER has found that high-tech is an important and significant contributor to the Montana economy,” said Kyle Morrill, BBER senior economist and director of forecasting. “High-tech provides about 5 percent of total Montana wages while employing roughly 3 percent of the workforce. And high-tech isn’t done: It’s growing at rates faster than the Montana economy as a whole.”

For the second year in a row, the BBER survey found that Montana’s quality of life and high-quality workforce provided significant advantages to doing business in the state.

As these companies ramp up their growth, competition for talented workforce increases, and survey respondents reported that attracting talent and hiring skilled technology workers is their largest impediment to faster growth.

In addition to survey research, BBER also conducted research using data from federal statistical agencies. While these data can only be used as a broad benchmark of high-tech economic activity, they are suggestive of the size of the activity statewide, including businesses who are not members of the alliance. Based on this analysis, BBER concludes that the aggregated responses of HTBA members reported here greatly understate the actual size of industry activity in Montana. While no precise estimate is possible, it is likely that the true size of the industry is two to three times as large as what is reported in the survey results in the study.

The data for this study were collected in fall 2015 by UM BBER’s Survey Research division. The study is available online at http://www.bber.umt.edu/pubs/econ/highTechBusAlliance2016.pdf.

BBER has over 35 years of experience providing a full range of survey services. Highly skilled bureau researchers use advanced data collection systems and techniques to offer broad-based survey services for public and private sector studies including survey development, data collection, analysis and report writing.

BBER is the main research unit of the School of Business Administration at UM. Established in 1948, its mission is to inform Montanans about the economic climate in which they live and work. In addition to conducting its Economic Outlook Seminars across the state at the beginning of each year, BBER researchers engage in a wide range of applied research projects that address different aspects of the state economy, including survey research, economic analysis, health care research, forecasting, wood products research and energy research.

For more information visit BBER at http://www.bber.umt.edu/ or call 406-243-5113.

Contact: Kyle Morrill, senior economist/director of forecasting, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, kyle.morrill@business.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Educators and role models from the University of Montana will share their passion for learning and exploring with K-12 students on Tuesday, Feb. 23, in Cut Bank.

The group will include representatives from the We Are Montana in the Classroom program and the Montana Space Grant Consortium’s Space Public Outreach Team (SPOT).

At Cut Bank High School, We Are Montana in the Classroom educators and role models will share UM’s research and educational opportunities with students. UM Professors Jim Sears of the Department of Geosciences and Frank Rosenzweig of the Division of Biological Sciences will lead hands-on activities and talk with students about their own educational and career pathways.

Throughout the day, SPOT will lead interactive presentations about current NASA missions and research. The SPOT program engages undergraduate students as STEM role models for K-12 students in schools, youth programs and community groups across Montana. For more information about SPOT’s shows and how to book a free SPOT visit in your school, email Montana Hodges at spot.montana@gmail.com.
We Are Montana in the Classroom partners with more than 100 UM faculty members, professionals and graduate students to inspire K-12 students about higher education and career pathways. This academic year, the program is on track to reach 10,000 students through statewide tours, local classroom visits and distance-learning experiences. We Are Montana in the Classroom belongs to the UM Broader Impacts Group in the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship.

To book a UM role model in your classroom or to learn more about We Are Montana in the Classroom’s array of free programming, call Nathalie Wolfram at 406-243-4828 or email nathalie.wolfram@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Nathalie Wolfram, We Are Montana in the Classroom program manager, 406-243-4828, nathalie.wolfram@umontana.edu.
UM’s Blackstone LaunchPad Kicks Off Second Session of Pursue Your Passion Program

February 17, 2016

MISSOULA – Blackstone LaunchPad at the University of Montana, the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs and the Women’s Foundation of Montana will kick off the second session of the Pursue Your Passion program on Monday, Feb. 22, in the Payne Family Native American Center at UM.

The event will take place in the Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and will include mentor matching, as well as inspiration to help participants discover their passion. Child care also will be provided in an adjacent room.

The keynote speaker for the event is Kali Lindner, the owner of Oula Fitness. Lindner will discuss her passion and how she used it to build a successful career.
After Lindner’s presentation, mentors and participants will meet in a speed-dating-style activity. Participants will identify which entrepreneurs and innovators will enable them to realize the true potential of their idea.

The program, which continues throughout spring semester, is open to both current students and community members who have an interest in developing a business or nonprofit idea. The program is open to all genders, with many of the workshops emphasizing women in business and leadership roles.

“We want to create a space for women to feel inspired, empowered and supported by one another in their creative and entrepreneurial endeavors,” said Paul Gladen, UM Blackstone LaunchPad director and Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs CEO.

Some topics for the workshops during the semester include:

- “How to Avoid Common Startup Pitfalls with Money,” led by Diane Smith and Liz Marchi.

Those interested in participating in PYP during the spring 2016 session can register online at http://www.umt.edu/passion/.

Blackstone LaunchPad helps UM students, alumni, faculty and staff turn their ideas, skills and passions into real-world businesses and nonprofit organizations. The organization is a cocurricular, experiential, campus program designed to introduce entrepreneurship as a viable career path and develop entrepreneurial skills and mindsets through individualized coaching, ideation and venture creation support.

The Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs promotes and projects the spirit of entrepreneurship to all UM students and Montana entrepreneurs through educational opportunities and special events. MADE is an affiliated program of the UM School of Business Administration.

The Women’s Foundation of Montana advances economic independence for Montana women and creates a brighter future for girls.

For more information call Gladen at 406-243-5723 or email paul.gladen@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Paul Gladen, UM Blackstone LaunchPad director, 406-243-5723, paul.gladen@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Nick Wethington, University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area museum manager, has received a competitive Sustainability in Science Museums Fellowship from the Walton Initiatives. The fellowship empowers science museum professionals to advance public understanding of sustainability.

Wethington’s one-year fellowship kicks off this week with a four-day workshop at Arizona State University, where a cohort of 20 fellows will receive mentorship from ASU faculty members and develop an initiative to engage museum visitors in sustainability education and action at their home institution.

A self-described “tinkerer and maker,” Wethington previously managed a curbside recycling program, blogged about astronomy and worked as a bike mechanic, educating customers about improving their health and reducing their carbon footprint through bicycling. Currently, he manages spectrUM’s museum in downtown Missoula.

“People come to us to learn and have fun at the same time, so creating activities and experiences that blend sustainability, science and entertainment is something I hope to achieve,” Wethington said. “Science museums play a critical role in communicating the broad subject of science to the public, and they are unique environments that
make science both fun and accessible."

Through the fellowship, Wethington plans to partner with UM faculty members in the environmental sciences and other Missoula organizations to develop a set of activities, demonstrations and museum programs that engages the public in locally relevant sustainability education.

Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, spectrUM is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula. Annually, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans at its museum and through statewide mobile engagement.

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

Contact: Nick Wethington, spectrUM museum manager, 406-728-7836, nicholas.wethington@umontana.edu.
UM to Host 25th Annual International Culture and Food Festival

February 17, 2016

MISSOULA – The University Center at the University of Montana will once again become Montana’s largest venue for global sights, sounds and tastes during the annual UM International Culture and Food Festival on Sunday, March 20.

The festival celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and has become Montana’s largest annual internationally-themed festival. This year’s theme, “25th Jubilee!”
Around the World in 25 Years,” highlights the many metaphorical global journeys that past festival-goers experienced during the past two and a half decades.

“These ‘journeys’ have led to rich and unique international experiences in dance, music, food, film, and arts and crafts,” said festival Director Mona Mondava. “The festival has sparked multifaceted cultural discoveries and learning, and most importantly, inspired countless cross-cultural friendships and connections.”

This year, the festival expects 3,500 global “travelers” to once again enjoy this world journey.

The UM International Culture and Food Festival is one of the cornerstone events of UM’s International Month, a series of programs and activities on campus during March. For a full schedule of International Month events, call 406-243-2288 or visit http://www.umt.edu/international-programs/international_month_default.php.

The 2016 International Culture and Food Festival will feature the world food bazaar, international culture show, an interactive children’s world festival, a cultural expo, the Montana International Children’s Film Festival, and a silent auction of arts and crafts from around the world. A parade of flags will kick off the festival at noon, and all activities will run simultaneously until 5 p.m. Admission costs $6 for the general public and $3 for children 12 and younger. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling Foreign Student and Scholar Services at 406-243-2226.

The world food bazaar in the UC Atrium will feature authentic dishes from regions around world. Food is priced from 50 cents to $4 and will include American Indian tacos; Greek souvlaki; Persian sambusas; Malaysian kam heong and teh tarik; Brazilian feijoada and brigadeiro; Indonesian soto ayam; Middle Eastern hummus, baklava and Bedouin coffee; and Native American buffalo tips and berry soup, among other culinary delights.

The five-hour lively International Culture Show will take place on the third floor of the UC in the Ballroom and will include traditional and contemporary performances such an Indian dance depicting Lord Vishnu’s incarnations, Balinese shadow puppet music, a mask dance from Sierra Leone and Guinea, a traditional Japanese fisherman’s dance, and Brazilian music and dance.

Children’s World, which will be held on the second floor of the UC in the Commons, will present an imaginative children’s festival with activity stations featuring hands-on, fun, intercultural activities. Children can participate in games, dances, storytelling, multiethnic crafts and origami, as well as meet people from different cultures. Kids will be issued “passports” and can earn “world citizen” status by completing activities. At the same time, the Montana International Children’s Film Festival will feature entertaining, thought-provoking and visually stunning short films for all ages in the UC Theater on the third floor. In addition the Jeanette Rankin Peace Center will offer children peace-making activities.

The cultural pavilions expo area in the UC Ballroom will present displays from individual countries and internationally focused local organizations. Displays will include colorful information about countries, a world-items market and information booths.

Those interested in becoming a Community Friend to incoming UM international students will have the opportunity to sign up for information from the Missoula International Friendship Program. The organization also will hold a silent auction of arts and crafts from many parts of the world.
The festival is sponsored by the UM International Student Association and Foreign Student and Scholar Services.

Contact: Mona Mondava, International Festival director, UM Foreign Student and Scholar Services, 406-243-6059, mona.mondava@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA— Educators and role models from University of Montana’s spectrUM Discovery Area and We Are Montana in the Classroom program will visit Troy on Thursday, Feb. 18, to share their passion for learning and exploring with K-12 students.

At W.F. Morrison Elementary School, spectrUM will lead in-school field trips with its “Brain: A World inside Your Head” exhibition. The exhibition showcases the wonders of neuroscience, including an EEG measurement station, a colossal brain and an activity in which visitors can move a ball using their own brain waves. Visitors can explore spectrUM’s Big Sky Big Brain, a 13-foot-tall inflatable brain that displays traumatic brain injuries.

Students also can explore the exhibition with family, friends and community members at a free Family Science Night from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, at W.F. Morrison Elementary School.

While spectrUM visits W.F. Morrison students, UM higher education and career role models from We Are Montana in the Classroom will share UM’s research and educational opportunities with students at Troy’s elementary, middle and high schools on Thursday and Friday. Amanda Duley of spectrUM and the Center for Structural and Functional
Neuroscience, Sherrill Brown of UM's School of Pharmacy, Dan Reisenfeld of UM's Department of Physics and Astronomy and Tim Chester of the Missoula College Energy Technology Program will lead hands-on activities and demonstrations during classroom visits throughout the day.

The spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, serving more than 50,000 Montanans annually through in-museum and mobile programs.

We Are Montana in the Classroom partners with more than 100 UM faculty members, professionals and graduate students to inspire K-12 students about higher education and career pathways. This academic year, the program is on track to reach 10,000 students through statewide tours, local classroom visits and distance-learning experiences.

SpectrUM and We Are Montana in the Classroom belong to the UM Broader Impacts Group in the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship.

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

For more information on booking a school visit or to learn more about We Are Montana in the Classroom’s array of free programming, call spectrUM STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828.

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**Contact:** Jessie Herbert, spectrUM STEM education program manager, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
President’s Lecture Series to Feature Global Expert on Food Security, Sustainability

February 16, 2016

MISSOULA – A critic of genetically modified crops and corporate-led globalization will deliver the next installment of the 2015-16 President’s Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

Vandana Shiva, the founder and director of the Research Foundation for Science Technology and Ecology and founder and managing trustee of Navdanya Trust in New Delhi, will present “We Are All Seeds: Food Security and Environmental Sustainability” at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, in UM’s Dennison Theatre. The lecture is the Brennan Guth Memorial Lecture in Environmental Philosophy in collaboration with UM’s Environmental Studies program.

Shiva also will lead a seminar earlier that day titled “Living Seed, Living Soil and Earth Democracy” at 3:10 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. The lecture and seminar both are free and open to the public.

Trained as a physicist at the University of Punjab in Pakistan, Shiva completed her doctoral work at the University of
Western Ontario in Canada. She later shifted toward interdisciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy, which she pursued at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, India.

In 1982, she founded an independent institute – the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in Dehra Dun, India – dedicated to the study of ecology and social issues. The foundation partners with local communities and social movements.

In 1991, Shiva founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect native seeds and to promote organic farming and fair trade. Sixty seed banks were established through the initiative. She received the Right Livelihood Award in 1993, which is considered an alternative to the Nobel Peace Prize.

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In 1991, Shiva founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect native seeds and to promote organic farming and fair trade. Sixty seed banks were established through the initiative. She received the Right Livelihood Award in 1993, which is considered an alternative to the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2004, she started Bija Vidyapeeth, an international college for sustainable living in Doon Valley, India, in collaboration with Schumacher College of the United Kingdom. She is a board member of the International Forum on Globalization.

The most recent of her more than two dozen books is “Seed Sovereignty, Food Security: Women in the Vanguard of the Fight against GMOs and Corporate Agriculture.”

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://umont.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.
President’s Lecture Series to Feature Global Expert on Food Security, Sustainability - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Steven Gaskill, University of Montana health and human performance professor, will offer insight into his unique life experiences during the annual Last Lecture, which is slated for 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, in UM’s University Center Theater. The event, hosted by the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society, is free and open to the public.

Gaskill’s lecture, “Lessons Learned from Olympic Coaching, University Teaching, Mountaineering and the Simple Joys of Living,” will draw from his own adventures and he will advise students on how to learn, take risks, open doors and define success. This year, Gaskill will answer the question: “What wisdom would you try to impart to the world if you knew it was your last chance?”

Gaskill has taught 20 different courses from medical physiology to coaching. In addition to teaching both high school
and college students, he also has served as an Olympic coach, directed the coaches’ education program for the U.S. Olympic Committee and completed first ascent routes on major peaks in Alaska, Colorado and Canada.

“The stories that I will tell are about finding joy from any adventure,” Gaskill said.

Gaskill will retire this year after teaching at UM for 16 years.

“After UM retirement, I will walk through the next door that looks exciting and keep going,” Gaskill said.

The Last Lecture series began at UM two decades ago, but was discontinued over time. In 2010 Mortar Board reinstated the Last Lecture series and has hosted the event annually since. Mortar Board members nominate and vote on a professor who has made a lasting impression through an undergraduate program to give the lecture.

The Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society, originally established as an all-female secret honor society, is a student group promoting scholarship, leadership and service.

To learn more about the Mortar Board Society, visit either the national website at http://mortarboard.org/ or the UM website at http://www.umt.edu/mortarboard/.

Contact: Chelsey Porter, UM Mortar Board adviser, 406-243-2831, montana@mortarboard.org.
MISSOULA – Sarah J. Halvorson, geography professor at the University of Montana, recently received a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research on climate change perceptions and adaptation scenarios in the south-central European country of Slovenia during spring semester 2016.

Halvorson’s research concentrates on the social, health and policy aspects of water-related problems, including the implications of climate change for the governance of mountain watersheds and community water supplies. While in Slovenia, Halvorson will collaborate with other geographers and environmental social scientists to focus on two major projects: an assessment of experiences and observations of climate change risk and vulnerability among Slovenia’s mountain communities; and an analysis of the perceived effectiveness of current climate change policies and planning tools.

Her primary research collaborator is the Slovenian geographer and mountaineer Irena
Mrak, who was a Visiting Fulbright Scholar to UM's Department of Geography during the 2012-13 academic year. Halvorson’s institutional host in the capital city of Ljubljana is the Geološki Zavod Slovenije, known as the Geological Survey of Slovenia (GeoZS).

“I am truly grateful that Dr. Mrak identified UM’s Department of Geography as her host during her Fulbright Visiting Scholar fellowship a few years ago," Halvorson said. “It was from our interactions in the halls and classrooms of Stone Hall as well as in the field that our research collaboration developed.”

“GeoZS is a terrific place to study climate change impacts on mountainous places,” she said. “It is one of the leading research institutes in Slovenia working in the fields of hydrology, geohazards and long-term environmental change. In addition, my local hosts and collaborators, Drs. Mrak and Matevž Novak, have each made important contributions to the fields of mountain geography, adaptation scenarios, and environmental risks and hazards.”

While serving as a Fulbright Fellow, Halvorson also will deliver guest lectures in environmental geography courses at the Univerza v Ljubljani (University of Ljubljana) and the Visoka Šola za Varstvo Okalja (College of Environmental Protection), her second institutional host, which is located in Velenje. During her stay, she plans to contribute to field courses and work on geography education outreach activities in collaboration with Slovenian colleagues.

Climate change-related impacts on mountain watersheds are of international concern. In the case of the European Alps, model calculations and measurements indicate that the warmest temperatures recorded in over 500 years have occurred in the past 20 years. The World Glacier Monitoring Service and others estimate that the total glaciated area within the Alps has decreased approximately 25 to 100 percent in the 20th century, in a similar manner to patterns observed worldwide. The downstream effects of shifts in snowmelt, precipitation and glaciation in Slovenia have local and regional implications for food production, energy development, tourism, water sharing and regional water security.

In 1997-98 Halvorson received a Fulbright Doctoral Dissertation award to conduct fieldwork in the Karakoram Range, Northern Pakistan. She was one of the initial co-authors of UM’s successful undergraduate minor in mountain studies and continues to serve as program co-director with UM colleague Ulrich Kamp. Halvorson is active in the field of geography education through her role as the coordinator of the Montana Geographic Alliance. As part of this work, she recently secured funding from the National Geographic Education Foundation to support a citizen
science BioBlitz event in partnership with Glacier National Park.

Contact: Sarah Halvorson, UM geography professor, 406-243-2793, sarah.halvorson@mso.umt.edu.
UM News

C.M. Russell Museum Director to Speak at UM Feb. 16

February 12, 2016

MISSOULA – C.M. Russell Museum Executive Director Michael Duchemin will present a lecture titled “Nature and Culture in the Rocky Mountains” on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at the University of Montana.

The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center’s Montana Theatre.

Duchemin’s presentation is in conjunction with MMAC’s current exhibition “Glorious Vista: Art of the American West from the Permanent Collection.” The exhibition explores the geography and people of the Rocky Mountain West during the 19th and 20th centuries. Sixty landscapes and historical depictions of Native peoples are on view through Saturday, Feb. 20, in the Paxon and Meloy galleries of the PAR/TV Center.

Duchemin was hired as executive director of the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls in 2013. The museum preserves, interprets and educates on the art and life of Charles M. Russell and his contemporaries.
MMAC academic-year gallery hours are noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday and 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 [http://www.umt.edu/montanmuseum](http://www.umt.edu/montanmuseum)

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**Contact:** Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture at UM, 406-243-2020, [barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu](mailto:barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu).
Mansfield Center Launches Spring 2016 Lecture Series

February 12, 2016

MISSOULA – The Mansfield Center at the University of Montana has announced its Spring 2016 Brown Bag Lecture Series for the community. The lectures reflect the center’s mission to promote an understanding of Asia, public affairs and ethics. Topics of this semester’s lectures include wildlife conservation in Southeast Asia, renewable energy and human health, and the connections between language and culture.

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, Feb. 16, University Center Room 332**: “Environmental Conservation Projects in Vietnam,” Marilyn Marler, natural areas specialist, UM Division of Biological Sciences, and Sarah Bates, deputy director, Northern Rockies, Prairies and Pacific Region of the National Wildlife Federation.

- **Wednesday, Feb. 24, UC Room 330**: “How Language and Culture Shape Each Other,” Reza Samar, associate professor, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center.

- **Tuesday, March 8, UC Room 332**: “The Confluence of Renewable Energy and Human Health: Putting
Ourselves to Work for a Human-Powered Future," Bradley Layton, director, Missoula College Energy Technology Program.

- **Wednesday, March 23, Mansfield Center Conference Room:** “Exploring Climate Change and Culture in the Vietnam Delta,” Nicky Phear, program coordinator, UM Climate Change Studies Program; and Dan Spencer, associate professor, UM Environmental Studies Program.


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

**Contact:** Caitlin Sager, administrative assistant, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.
UM Hosts Ceramic Artists for Annual Archie Bray Day

February 12, 2016

MISSOULA – Three ceramic artists from the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena will demonstrate their techniques and lecture about their work Wednesday, Feb. 24, during the annual Archie Bray Day at the University of Montana.

Events will run from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Artists Kyungmin Park, Michele Summers and Bill Wilkey will demonstrate their work from 10:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:45 p.m. in the Ceramics Studio of UM’s Art Annex, located south of the Adams Center. A lecture and slide show of the artists’ work will be held from 5:10 to 6:30 p.m. in Social Science Building Room 352.

Park is a figurative ceramic sculptor who draws inspiration from childlike perspectives, contrasting the darker emotions and restricted psyche of adulthood with the boundless consciousness of children. Originally from South Korea, Park began studying ceramics while living in Seoul. In 2006, she transferred to the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University and earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2008. Later, following a studio assistantship with sculptor Christina Cordova in Penland, North Carolina, Park earned her Master of Fine Arts degree in ceramics from the University of Georgia in 2012.
Summers describes her work as a journal of her life's journey through both lived and imagined experiences. She is fascinated with the complexity of the mind hidden beneath the surface of the body, and her work depicts the abstract spaces and characters that exist within the confines of the conscious and subconscious. Her work touches on topics of identity, perception, fantasy and yearning. Summers is originally from Portland, Oregon. She earned her BFA in ceramics from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in 2005 and her MFA in ceramics from the University of Minnesota in 2014.

Wilkey grew up in Johnson City, Tennessee. He earned his BFA from East Tennessee State University and his MFA from the University of Missouri in 2014. He exhibits his work nationally and was featured as a 2014 Emerging Artist by Ceramics Monthly. Wilkey’s functional pottery is made with an architectural aesthetic, and he uses atmospheric firing processes to finish the surfaces.

Archie Bray Day is sponsored by the Jim and Jane Dew Visiting Artist Fund and the UM School of Art. For more information call UM art Professor Beth Lo at 406-243-5893 or call the School of Art office at 406-243-4181.

Contact: Beth Lo, UM art professor, 406-243-5893, elizabeth.lo@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Poet Stefania Heim, the University of Montana Creative Writing Program’s Visiting Hugo Writer, will read her poetry at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room. The event, which is part of the Spring 2016 Reading Series, is free and open to the public.

Heim is the author of the poetry collection “A Table That Goes On for Miles,” winner of the Gatewood Prize from

She is a founding editor of “CIRCUMFERENCE: Poetry in Translation” and a poetry editor for the Boston Review. She holds a master’s degree in fine arts from Columbia University and a doctorate degree from the CUNY Graduate Center, where she wrote the dissertation, “Dark Matter: Susan Howe, Muriel Rukeyser and the Scholar’s Art.” She has taught at Columbia, Deep Springs College, Duke University and Hunter College.

The Hugo Visiting Writer is a faculty position in UM’s Creative Writing Program that honors former professor and renowned poet Richard Hugo. For more information call Karin Schalm, Creative Writing Program coordinator, at 406-243-5267, email karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu or visit http://hs.umt.edu/creativenwriting/.

Contact: Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@umontana.edu.
UM News

UM Study: Montana-Made Products, Services Boost Local Economies

February 11, 2016

MISSOULA – Montana visitors who bought Montana-made products, Montana-grown food or who used local services in 2015 spent, on average, about $185 more in the state each day than visitors who did not purchase local products and services, according to a new study.

A recent analysis of nonresident visitor spending by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana found that in the first three quarters of 2015, visitors spent an average of $147 daily. However, once the visitors were grouped into whether they purchased local products or services on their trip, significant differences emerged. Visitors who reported buying local goods and services spent an average $296 a day, while those who did not make local purchases averaged about $112 a day.

Visitors who made local purchases spent more money in every spending category except gasoline/diesel. Further analysis showed that this group was more likely to be on vacation or visiting friends and relatives compared to the non-local purchasing group who was more likely to be passing through the state.

Sixteen percent of Montana’s visitors reported spending money on local products and services during the first three
The products purchased most frequently include food such as huckleberry items, baked goods and candy, followed by locally brewed beer and alcohol from local distilleries.

While visitors were up 8 percent in 2015, overall spending decreased about the same amount. Researchers attribute much of that spending decrease to lower gas prices and fewer Canadians traveling to Montana because of the strong U.S. dollar.

Despite the overall decrease in the amount spent by travelers from 2014 to 2015, spending in retail categories, which include “Made in Montana” products and services, increased in 2015, which UM researchers say is a significant indication that nonresident visitors are interested in purchasing items and services they can’t find elsewhere, or products that can “bring them back” to Montana after their visit to the state.


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**Contact:** Norma Nickerson, director, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, 406-243-2328, norma.nickerson@umontana.edu.
UM Invites Public Participation at Diversity ForUMs

February 11, 2016

MISSOULA – The first of the University of Montana’s spring 2016 Noon Diversity ForUMs will take place from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, in the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Center Conference Room in the Mansfield Library. The forums are free and open to the public, and attendees are welcome to bring a lunch.

The February forum, “Cultural Diversity at UM – Issues, Interactions and Expectations,” will be moderated by Udo Fluck, cross-cultural researcher, curriculum developer and instructor. Fluck, who was born in Germany, will talk about identity and diversity as it relates to UM.

Designed by Diversity Advisory Council members Rhondie Voorhees, Udo Fluck and Nathan Domitrovich, the Noon Diversity ForUMs aim to improve communication, education and relations among people of diverse backgrounds. Interaction and discussion is encouraged as moderators will share their own thoughts on the topic and welcome attendees to do the same.

“I believe the Noon Diversity ForUMs will be an excellent platform to understand, respect, support and celebrate diversity on campus, as well as in the Missoula and global communities,” said Chelsey Porter, Diversity Advisory
Council co-chair. "The event organizers, who will also act as session moderators, each have a unique background and are dedicated to increasing awareness and appreciation of diversity."

Fluck is the director of UM's Global Gateway Global program in the Office of International Programs. The program seeks to develop partnerships with the UM campus, K-12 schools and community organizations. Fluck has provided over 600 educational seminars since 2003.

Voorhees is the dean of students at UM and served as program director for the Common Ground Multicultural Dialogue program for 12 years at the University of Maryland. The program focuses on providing opportunities for diverse student groups to discuss important modern-day issues in an increasingly multicultural world.

Domitrovich is UM's director at the Undergraduate Advising Center and also has worked as a coordinator at UM's Southwest Asian Studies Center, an adjunct faculty member for the Department of Anthropology and an international student exchange assistant at the Office of International Programs. He taught for two years in the People’s Republic of China.

Two additional Noon Diversity ForUMs are scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, and Wednesday, April 20.

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**Contact:** Udo Fluck, Global Gateway director, UM Office of International Programs, 406-243-5885, udo.fluck@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana Assistant Professor John McCutcheon recently received the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious award for junior faculty.

The Faculty Early Career Development award, also known as a CAREER grant, is given annually to junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research.

CAREER grant awards
generally range from $400,000 to $1 million. McCutcheon will receive $746,301 over five years to continue his lab's work, which aims to understand the origins of mitochondria and chloroplasts and how they integrate with the cells in which they are found. McCutcheon uses cutting-edge genomic experiments to study the bacteria that live inside cicadas as models for this process.

“It’s a terrific honor for me and my lab,” McCutcheon said. “But it also speaks more broadly to the quality and impact of the genomic, ecological and evolutionary work being done at UM.”

The work involves extensive computing, therefore the educational component of McCutcheon's research will teach computer programming and its applications to Montana students at all levels. A major goal of the project is to increase the competitiveness of UM students by giving them the computational tools they need to handle diverse, complex and large sets of data.

Each year, between 350 and 400 assistant professors nationally earn CAREER grants. McCutcheon joins other UM scientists who have received this honor in the past.

“This NSF CAREER award for Dr. McCutcheon is greatly deserved and an excellent investment in a young faculty member at UM who has already established national recognition for his research,” said Scott Whittenburg, vice president for research and creative scholarship at UM. “John, along with Jeff Good from UM's Division of Biological Sciences and with support from the Murdock Trust, has worked to establish the UM Genomics Core as a vital
resource for researchers working in genomics and bioinformatics. The award is indicative of the excellent group of young scientists that have chosen the University of Montana as their home and form the foundation for growth of campus research and increased national and international recognition.

**Contact:** John McCutcheon, assistant professor, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 406-243-6071, john.mccutcheon@umontana.edu.
February 10, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana Creative Writing Program graduate student Alida Dean of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, is the recipient of this year’s Merriam-Frontier Award.

Dean will read her award-winning submission at 4:10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, in the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library Theta Rho Room. The reading is free and open to the public.
After graduating from Smith College in 2012, Dean served in the Peace Corps in Nepal. Now, she is an MFA candidate in fiction at UM. Her writing explores the space between who people are and who they’d like to be, among other things.

The judges, Lois Welch, Rachel Mindell and Ginny Merriam, said they selected Dean’s work because she “expresses a unique perspective on the world, full of humility and strangeness.” They also said, “Her stories and essays are compelling on a long spectrum, from sentence-level to plotting to that world view. She gives her readers a balance between strong sense of place and the human experience of her characters.”

The Merriam-Frontier Award was established by H.G. Merriam, UM professor of English and creative writing from 1919 to 1954, and includes a $500 prize and funds to publish the winning entry as a chapbook. The contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students each autumn semester.

Frontier, later titled Frontier and Midland, was a distinguished quarterly journal founded and edited by H.G. 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.
The reading is sponsored by the UM Creative Writing Program, the Merriam-Frontier Award and the Mansfield Library. For more information call Creative Writing Program Coordinator Karin Schalm at 406-243-5267, email karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu or visit http://www.cas.umt.edu/creativewriting.

**Contact:** Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s We Are Montana in the Classroom program will travel to Hamilton and share UM’s research and educational opportunities with eighth-grade girls at the Bitterroot Ecological Awareness Resources overnight camp-in on Friday, Feb. 12.

The camp-in will take place at Hamilton Middle School from 6 p.m. through the night. The We Are Montana in the Classroom role models will present from 7 to 8 p.m.

UM faculty members, professionals and graduate students will lead hands-on activities and demonstrations for the 86 girls participating in the event, which is a celebration of science and science careers designed to empower girls to pursue their passions.

“We’re excited for Hamilton’s eighth-grade girls to learn about the many opportunities for research, exploration and leadership that await them in higher education and beyond,” said Holly Truitt, director of We Are Montana in the Classroom.
The role models traveling to Hamilton include Alessia Carpoca from the UM School of Theater and Dance, Kelly Moore and Lindsay MacKenzie from UM's Paleontology Center, Shauna Muns from Missoula College's Energy Technology Program and Reba Van Beusekom from the UM Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Established in 1993, B.E.A.R. is an outdoor adventure and mentoring nonprofit dedicated to inspiring youth to connect with their own potential, their community and the landscape. In addition to mentoring services, B.E.A.R. provides summer camps and after-school and weekend activities for over 300 Bitterroot youth annually.

We Are Montana in the Classroom, part of the UM Broader Impacts Group in the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship, partners with more than 100 UM faculty members, professionals and graduate students to inspire K-12 students about higher education and career pathways. This academic year, the program is on track to reach 10,000 students through statewide tours, local classroom visits and distance-learning experiences.

To learn more about We Are Montana in the Classroom’s array of free programs and teachers’ resources, email We Are Montana in the Classroom Program Manager Jessie Herbert at jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.

Contact: Jessie Herbert, We Are Montana in the Classroom program manager, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
We Are Montana in the Classroom to Celebrate Science at Camp-In for Girls - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Professor to Serve as Fulbright Specialist in Latvia

February 09, 2016

MISSOULA – The Fulbright Specialist Program recently selected University of Montana Professor Amanda Golbeck to advance the understanding of public and global health research at the University of Latvia in Riga, Latvia.

Golbeck, a professor of public and community health sciences, will spend two weeks in May sharing her knowledge about modern, state-of-the-art, statistical research methods to enable more sophisticated and useful public health research at the University of Latvia.

"I am grateful to the United States and Latvia for this extraordinary opportunity that will bring me together with faculty at the University of Latvia under the auspices of the Fulbright award program," Golbeck said. "I look forward to establishing
productive, sustainable and impactful global public health
cornerstone with my host scholars."

The project overview states that Latvians experience relatively high rates of depression, with Latvia suicide rates considered the third highest of all European countries. Latvia also has the third highest rate of traffic accident fatalities in Europe.

“The University of Latvia Department of Psychology has already initiated research in these fields, but there is need for more advanced competence in regard to modern statistical methods,” the host institution writes. “Specialists from the United States are leaders in the development and understanding of new, modern statistical methods.”

In Latvia, Golbeck will conduct a series of lectures and seminars for master’s degree and doctoral students, as well as faculty members from various disciplines of study, including psychology, education, economics, sociology and medicine.

As a Fulbright Specialist, the university also invites Golbeck to conduct consultations with doctoral students and faculty members, sharing her recommendations for which research methods to use for specific research projects.

Through the partnership, the University of Latvia faculty members hope to learn higher quality research methods to have a greater practical application toward improving general and mental health, mental health services, education, demographic issues and more. In addition, the project will stimulate networking between the University of Latvia and UM, which could result in future joint research projects and joint publications, as well as the development of collaborative online lectures, seminars and perhaps an online course.

For more information call Golbeck at 406-243-4446 or email amanda.golbeck@umontana.edu.

Contact: Amanda Golbeck, professor, UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences, 406-243-4446, amanda.golbeck@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana will celebrate its 123rd birthday on Thursday, Feb. 18, with a noon-hour party and an evening Charter Day awards ceremony and reception.

The birthday festivities are held each year to celebrate the anniversary of UM’s chartering by the Montana Legislature in 1893 and to honor the University and its dedication to excellence. All events are free and open to the public.

The noon-hour birthday party, featuring free cupcakes and entertainment, will be held in the University Center Atrium. The annual Charter Day awards ceremony, which begins at 5:30 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom, will recognize exemplary campus and community members.

Missoula Mayor John Engen will attend the evening awards ceremony to present an official proclamation of University of Montana Day. A reception will follow the ceremony.

UM Provost Perry Brown will preside over the presentation of 2016 Charter Day awards to the following recipients:

Montana Alumni Award: Marcia Holland. This award recognizes a former UM student for extraordinary service to
the University. Holland is a former UM Alumni Association board president and is an active volunteer in the Missoula community. She graduated from UM in 1972 and worked as a public defender in Alaska for 22 years. She returned to Missoula and is an adjunct professor at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at UM. She was instrumental in reviving the Hello Walk on campus at Homecoming and volunteers for UMAA’s annual fundraiser, Boots to Beaches. She has served on several nonprofit boards and currently chairs the Missoula County Public Schools board of directors.

**Associated Students of UM Student Service Award: Bryon Boots.** This award recognizes distinguished service and achievement. Boots is a UM senior double-majoring in management information systems and international business. He has participated on UM’s Model United Nations team for three years, and he and 11 other students will travel to New York City this spring to represent UM at National Model United Nations. Upon graduation, Boots will work in the IT advisory department for KPMG in Portland, Oregon.

**Robert T. Pantzer Presidential Humanitarian Award: Deena Mansour.** This award recognizes those who create a more humane learning environment at UM. Mansour is the associate director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at UM, where she draws on her experiences as a former diplomat to create opportunities to support the center's mission of mutual understanding between the U.S. and Asia and ethical public policy and leadership. Since 2009, she has successfully brought more than $5 million in international exchange grants to UM.

**Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award: Nelson Weller.** This award recognizes extraordinary effort to foster an understanding of UM’s needs and strengths throughout the community and the state. Weller, who graduated from UM in 1958, is a retired financial analyst and longtime University supporter. He has promoted the excellence of UM for decades through volunteer service, mentorship and contributions to UM's Presidential Leadership Scholarship.

**Outstanding Service to the External Community Award: Sara Polanchek.** This award recognizes exceptional service to the off-campus community and positive contributions to the overall mission of the University. Polanchek is clinical director of the Department of Counselor Education in UM's Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. In her role, she orchestrates and oversees more than 2,000 hours of direct counseling services each semester. Her diligent work and ongoing connections allow counselor education students to inject 4,000 hours of counseling into the community each year.

**John Ruffatto Memorial Award: Sam Panerella.** This award recognizes UM faculty who bring practical, applicable business principles into the classroom. Panerella is an associate professor in the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at UM and director of the Max S. Baucus Institute. His teaching emphasis is on educating law students on the doctrinal and practical aspects of business law, including contract negotiation, business transactions and organizational dynamics.

**George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment: Vince Colucci.** This award recognizes distinguished accomplishments that have brought significant recognition to UM at the regional and national levels. Colucci is a professor of pharmacy practice at UM. He has conducted research, published manuscripts and lectured in the area of cardiovascular pharmacotherapeutics. He also manages an anticoagulation clinic at Providence-St. Patrick Hospital and serves as a drug therapy consultant and specialist for Western Montana Clinic.

**George M. Dennison Presidential Staff Award for Distinguished Accomplishment: Barb Seekins.** This award
recognizes distinguished accomplishment within the employee’s work unit that brings excellence, merit, distinction or glory to UM. Seekins is the assistant director of UM Foreign Student and Scholar Services and has worked in international education and disability advocacy for 25 years. A tireless champion for the ideals of equality and diversity, she has served on numerous UM committees and has chaired the Americans with Disabilities Act Team since 2002.

For more information about Charter Day events, call Angela Weisenburger, UM Office of Alumni Relations on-campus events coordinator, at 406-243-6439 or email angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu.

Contact: Angela Weisenburger, UM Office of Alumni Relations on-campus events coordinator, 406-243-6439, angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu.
Women’s Leadership Initiative Invites UM Employees to Join Brainstorming Session

February 08, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Women’s Leadership Initiative invites UM employees of all genders to join a charrette-style brainstorming session designed to help determine the future of the initiative. The session will take place in University Center Room 330-331 from 4 to 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9. Light refreshments will be served.

The session will provide a forum for all UM employees to learn about the initiative and to provide their own feedback and perspectives on the initiative and what it might accomplish for the University. President Royce Engstrom will open the session with a few words.

Launched in August 2015 by Engstrom, the initiative is designed to support UM’s vision to promote a diverse campus to create a stronger learning environment and workplace. The inaugural cohort of Fellows was selected in September and includes faculty, staff and administrators from across the mountain and Missoula College campuses.

Cohort members participate in various activities designed to promote their individual professional development. However, the initiative also will support the larger UM community, and UM community participation is an important part of the initiative’s success.
More information on the Women’s Leadership Initiative can be found online at [http://www.umt.edu/womens-leadership-initiative/](http://www.umt.edu/womens-leadership-initiative/).

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**Contact:** Deena Mansour, UM Presidential Leadership Fellow, 406-243-2713, [deena.mansour@umontana.edu](mailto:deena.mansour@umontana.edu); Caitlin Sager, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center assistant, 406-243-2965, [caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu](mailto:caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu).
Super Grizzly Dip to Make a Splash at UM Feb. 27

February 05, 2016

MISSOULA – Participants of the 17th Annual Super Grizzly Dip will plunge into an icy pool of water in the name of charity at the University of Montana Oval on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Registration check-in begins at 10:30 a.m. on the Oval. The preplunge party begins at 11:30 a.m., and the plunges start at noon.

The event, which is open to the public, offers a chance to raise funds to benefit local Special Olympics athletes, many of whom will participate in the plunge. Those who choose not to plunge still can participate by registering as a “chicken.” They still raise pledges and receive incentives like a regular plunger, without getting wet.

Participants are encouraged to collect tax-deductible pledges from friends and family. There is a $100 donation minimum per plunger or “chicken.” UM students with a valid Griz Card can plunge for $50. Checks should be made to Special Olympics. To register or for more information, visit http://www.somt.org/events/plunge/super-grizzly-dip/.

The Super Grizzly Dip primarily is organized, promoted and conducted by law enforcement through their affiliation...
Super Grizzly Dip to Make a Splash at UM Feb. 27 - UM News - University Of Montana

with Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Montana. Neptune Aviation Services and NorthStar Jet are the premier sponsors for the event. Year-round sponsors include the Montana Police Protective Association as the Premier Law Enforcement Sponsor and Town Pump as the Premium Mission Sponsor. Their partnership has ensured the success of the plunge for many years.

More than 2,000 athletes from 65 Montana communities participate in local, area and state sports competitions that train athletes for life and build communities of acceptance, respect and inclusion. As a volunteer-driven movement, nearly 4,000 Montanans help organize and host local-, area- and state-level competitions and other year-round program services. Five Valleys Area Special Olympics takes a particular interest in providing opportunities to these athletes on a local level.

As a charitable nonprofit organization, Special Olympics Montana is funded primarily through the generosity of individuals, organizations and businesses across the state. Public support is essential. For more information call Truman Tolson, SOMT West Region Coordinator, at 406-552-6289.

Contact: Jennifer Zellmer-Cuaresma, adviser, UM Athletic Academic Services, 406-243-2600, jennifer.zellmerc@mso.umt.edu.
UM Students to Hold Quality of Life Event for Public

February 05, 2016

MISSOULA – Students in Communication and Hearing Working in Action at the University of Montana will host the fourth annual Advocacy Day event with a “Quality of Life” theme. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in University Center Room 332 and is free and open to the public.

Advocacy Day aims to spread awareness about issues related to language and communication and targets students or professionals in health and human science fields such as speech-language pathology, audiology, psychology, social work, education, counseling and physical therapy. The event also benefits students or community members wanting learn more about the human brain, speech, language, hearing and how they can advocate for individuals with disabilities.

The event includes five presentations by guest speakers and students:

- 9-10:30 a.m.: “Caregiver Involvement: Supporting Your Most Valuable Resource,” presented by Kirsten Murray, associate professor and chair of UM’s Department of Counselor Education.
UM Students to Hold Quality of Life Event for Public - UM News - University Of Montana

- **10:40-11:40 a.m.**: “Building Context of Historical Trauma for Practice,” presented by Maegan Rides At The Door, director of the National Native Children’s Trauma Center.

- **11:40 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**: “What to Do When Experiencing or Witnessing a Stroke,” student-led F.A.S.T. (Face, Arms, Speech, Time) workshop.

- **1:30-2:30 p.m.**: “Supporting the Optimal Development of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants and Toddlers,” presented by Lynne Koester, retired UM developmental psychology professor.

- **2:40-4:00 p.m.**: “MonTECH: Providing Montanans with Assistive Technology to Increase Independence and Enhance Personal Performance,” presented by Julie Doerner, clinical coordinator for UM’s Montana Assistive Technology Program.

SCHWA is a student group in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders and a part of the UM chapter of the National Student Speech, Language and Hearing Association, a preprofessional membership association for students interested in the study of communication sciences and disorders.

For more information about the event, visit the Facebook event page “SCHWA Advocacy Day” at [https://www.facebook.com/events/1669414349991170/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1669414349991170/).

**Contact:** Marley Niland, UM Students in Communication and Hearing Working in Action advocacy committee chair, 206-734-8148, marley.niland@umontana.edu.
UM Now Offering Students Advising on the Go

February 04, 2016

MISSOULA – The Office for Student Success at the University of Montana now offers students a service called Advising on the Go in the Lommasson Center’s Griz Central.

UM students can stop by the new advising counter from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, to find answers to their questions about academic advising without an appointment. Advising on the Go is located next to the Registration Counter in Griz Central.

Experienced advisers staffing the desk will connect students to campus services, resources, and advisers in academic departments on both the Mountain Campus and Missoula College for more in-depth assistance.

“Students often have relatively straightforward advising-related questions that do not require a scheduled appointment with an academic adviser,” said OSS Executive Director Brian French. “With our new Advising on the Go counter in Griz Central, we are more accessible for students who have these straightforward questions and referral needs.”
UM Now Offering Students Advising on the Go - UM News - University Of Montana

For more information visit http://www.umt.edu/oss/advising_on_the_go/default.php.

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**Contact:** Brian French, executive director, UM Office for Student Success, 406-243-2565, brian.french@mso.umt.edu.
UM Lecture Series to Explore Answers From the Humanities

February 04, 2016

MISSOULA – Six University of Montana faculty members will explore a wide array of topics related to the humanities – and why they’re still relevant today – during the UM Alumni Association’s 2016 Community Lecture Series, “Making Sense of Ourselves: Answers from the Humanities.”

Lectures will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday, Feb. 16-March 22, in the University Center Theater. Each event will include a Q-and-A session.

UM history Professor Anya Jabour will launch the series Feb. 16 with “Making Meaning of Memories: The Life of Activist Sophonisba Breckinridge.” A schedule of the remaining lectures follows.

- **Feb. 23:** “The Naked Truth: Shame in Animal Studies and Black Studies,” Benedicte Boisseron, associate professor, French language and literature

- **March 1:** “Justice in Motion: The Evolution of a Complex Concept,” David Sherman, professor, philosophy
• **March 8:** “Vietnam War: Literature & the Politics of Remembrance,” Quan Ha, associate professor, English

• **March 15:** “Rehearsing for Reality: Building Empathy by Exploring Another,” Jillian Campana, professor, theater

• **March 22:** “Making Sense of It All: Why the Humanities Matter More Than Ever,” panel discussion moderated by Ashby Kinch, professor, English

Tickets for the entire lecture series cost $20 for the public, $15 for UMAA dues-paying members and $10 for students. Tickets for individual lectures are $5 at the door. Purchase tickets online at [http://www.grizalum.org/](http://www.grizalum.org/) or by calling the Office of Alumni Relations at 406-243-5211.

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**Contact:** Angela Weisenburger, on-campus events coordinator, UM Alumni Association, 406-243-6439, angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu; Linda Gillison, UM professor and lecture series facilitator, 406-243-2719, linda.gillison@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana provides more health career programs than any other campus in the state, and now the University has launched a new UM Health & Medicine initiative to promote this fact and foster new advances in health education and research.

University President Royce Engstrom announced the creation of UMHM during his mid-year address Feb. 3.

“We already offer incredibly robust programming in health and medicine areas, which lead to high-paying jobs in some of the hottest career fields,” Engstrom said. “UMHM will give us the structure to emphasize, strengthen and grow these programs for the benefit of Montana and the region.”

The new organization will:

- recruit students into health professions and create new degree programs to meet employment demands.
- strengthen relationships with partners committed to regional graduate medical education.
- boost collaboration of UM’s instructional, research and clinical expertise in health care.
UM Creates New Health and Medicine Initiative - UM News - University Of Montana

- facilitate robust research focused on improving health outcomes across Montana.

More information about the initiative, which will be housed in UM’s Skaggs Building, is online at http://www.umt.edu/umhm/.

Montana will need 40 percent more health care workers in the next decade, according to UM’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research. This translates to an additional 7,000 workers by 2025 to care for Montana’s growing and aging population.

This is compelling news to Reed Humphrey, the UMHM initiative leader and dean of UM’s College of Health Professions & Biomedical Sciences. Forecasts such as this mean that UM must become even more engaged in preparing health care professionals.

“There is an ever-widening gap between the health needs of Montanans and our ability to supply a workforce to meet those needs,” Humphrey said. “It struck me when I arrived on this campus years ago that we have a lot of really strong programs but lacked a common identity or entry point, mostly because programs grew up in different colleges on the campus. That made it difficult to understand how to navigate a career path in health professions. We needed to fix that, and UMHM is designed to do exactly that.”

He said the initiative will provide a framework for UM’s health and medicine programs, which are widespread across campus and includes UM’s two-year Missoula College. UMHM will provide a common entry point, or portal, for students interested in health careers. He also wants the organization to generate and support a “community of learners” among its students – a group that will synergize and enhance the learning process at UM.

“Next fall when students arrive, we’ll meet with those who have declared an interest in health and medicine as a career objective, and we’ll design experiences for them on campus so they can make intelligent choices about their curriculum and career options,” he said. “And this isn’t just for prospective students – we plan to reach out to our existing student body to inform them about these opportunities.”

Roberta Evans is another designer of the initiative and dean of UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, where “human sciences” refer to a portfolio of physical and mental health programs that constitute nearly half the college. She said the UMHM effort is transdisciplinary and will train professionals in the teamwork required by people now working in hospitals to treat the whole person.

“Currently, the many great academic health opportunities across UM appear like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle,” Evans said. “This program will bring the pieces together, clarify the options available and also showcase our extraordinary successes. So I think this will unify our messaging, and the opportunities are going to just explode.”

She said UMHM will inform students about all the practical experiences, clinics, centers and research opportunities available to them. It also will reach out to grow and strengthen partnerships with area hospitals, local nonprofits and national funding agencies. Hospitals in Missoula and Kalispell already have thrown their support behind the effort, which will allow the University, hospitals and clinics to engage collaboratively to improve the provision of interprofessional health care and research.

“As a leading health care provider in western Montana, we are thrilled to see the University of Montana establish
the Health & Medicine initiative to build the workforce foundation that will ultimately benefit patients in our region," said Jeff Fee, regional chief executive for Providence Health & Services, Montana.

Humphrey said UM graduates in health and medicine programs on campus essentially boast 100 percent placement rates.

“If students aren’t employed at graduation or upon licensure, it’s largely because they choose not to be employed at graduation,” he said. “Frankly, if you are a student interested in going into medicine or a health professions career and you are considering where in Montana or even the region you want to study, there is no better place than UM, given the range of academic opportunities but as importantly, on-campus experiences and training.”

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Contact: Reed Humphrey, dean, UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, 406-243-4341, reed.humphrey@umontana.edu; Roberta Evans, dean, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, 406-243-5877, roberta.evans@mso.umt.edu.
UM’s Institute for Educational Research and Service Selected for National Training

February 04, 2016

MISSOULA – A core team from the University of Montana Institute for Educational Research and Service has been selected to participate in a unique national training program coordinated by the National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health and sponsored by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Project Venture: Positive Prevention for American Indian Youth is an outdoor experiential development program designed for Native youth who are at high risk for substance use and related problems. Project Venture was developed by the National Indian Youth Leadership Project, a community-based nonprofit organization owned and operated by Native Americans with nearly 20 years of experience in youth development.

Organizations were allowed to propose a team of three to five members. Strong selection preference was given to organizations serving American Indians. UM’s Institute for Educational Research and Service, an institute in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, is an ideal candidate as it houses the National Native Children’s Trauma Center, a Treatment and Service Adaptation Center within the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. It is the only center of its kind in the U.S.
“There are relatively few evidence-based prevention curriculums specifically designed for American Indian and Alaska Native youth,” said Maegan Rides At The Door, director for UM’s National Native Children’s Trauma Center. “Our team is excited to learn more about the program, as we particularly like its emphasis on building strengths and promoting culture. We knew it was going to be a competitive applicant pool, so we are delighted to have the opportunity to participate.”

Providing national expertise on childhood trauma among American Indian/Alaska Native children, the NNCTC provides trainings and consultations to community agencies, tribal programs, clinicians, school personnel, technicians and families on the impacts and prevention of childhood traumatic stress. The IERS team participating in the Project Venture training hopes they will bolster their professional skillset to help youth develop positive self-concepts, effective social skills, community service ethics, the belief that they can influence events and their outcomes, and increased decision-making and problem-solving skills.

“Being selected as a sponsored trainee is an honor for our institute and university,” said Rick van den Pol, director of the Institute for Educational Research and Service. “This training will help advance a core value in IERS: Native self-determination through wellness.”

Over the course of several months, the IERS team will participate in various webinars, on-site trainings, coaching calls and program testing sessions. Through established partnerships with schools and programs in Browning and Frazer, implementation of newly learned programs and skills will begin immediately. These unique partnerships also will allow for greater community and culturally specific components to be applied and respected, helping to ensure greater success rates in program participation and outcomes.

For more information on Project Venture, visit http://www.nned.net/pv-2016. To learn more about the UM Institute for Educational Research and Service, the National Native Children’s Trauma Center or UM’s training participants, visit http://www.iers.umt.edu/ or call 406-243-2644.

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.
UM Students Gain Valuable Volunteer Experience in Hollywood

February 03, 2016

MISSOULA – Early in January, the University of Montana’s Office for Civic Engagement and the Volunteers in Action student group coordinated an alternative winter break trip to Hollywood to work with a local nonprofit that focuses on hunger and homelessness. The trip took place from Jan. 9-17 and included a two-credit seminar class.

While in Hollywood, 11 UM students worked with the
Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection program, which provides service, learning and leadership-development opportunities within urban environments.

The Hollywood branch of DOOR concentrates on children’s advocacy, HIV/AIDS and chronic homelessness, poverty, hunger and education achievement gaps. Students worked at different sites, including food pantries, resource centers, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. They also had free time to explore the more glamorous side of Hollywood, which exposed many students to the striking contrasts between poverty and prosperity.

“Through long days of volunteering, listening to stories from troubled pasts and walking down streets full of the rich and very poor, our minds constantly were tested to think differently,” one student said.

“I was challenged to work and strengthen my empathy muscles and develop compassion for others I don’t know who may need help,” another volunteer said.

UM’s Alternative Breaks program allows college students to gain experience in community service while learning about topics ranging from literacy to the environment. Students often are exposed to social problems in communities they have never encountered.

UM offers Alternative Breaks biannually, during the winter and spring breaks. Previously, UM students have traveled to Arches National Park in Utah to restore native vegetation and to San Diego to help with early childhood education programs.

The 2016 Alternative Breaks experiences generously have been supported by the Dairy Farmers of America.

For more information about the next Alternative Breaks trip, which will focus on environmental restoration in Moab, Utah, visit UM’s OCE office in the Davidson Honors College Room 015, or email OCE Alternative Breaks Coordinator Kellie Hofstetter at kjhof@comcast.net.

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Contact: Kellie Hofstetter, UM Office for Civic Engagement alternative breaks coordinator, 406-243-5531, kjhof@comcast.net.
UM Alpha Phi Hosts Fundraiser to Benefit Women’s Heart Health Research

February 03, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana chapter of the Alpha Phi sorority will host its sixth annual Red Dress Gala from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at The Ranch Club in Missoula.

The fundraiser will feature music and entertainment, a silent auction, and food and beverages. All proceeds will go to the Alpha Phi Foundation, which supports women’s cardiac-care research. Chi chapter has raised more than $20,000 since its first Red Dress Gala in 2010, and Alpha Phi collegiate chapters across the country raised a collective $2.36 million in 2014.

Tickets cost $35 each, $60 per couple and $15 for UM students. They are available in advance online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chi-chapter-red-dress-gala-tickets-20707423461 or at the door.

Attendees are asked to wear formal red attire or red accents to raise awareness of heart disease, the No. 1 killer of women in the United States.

“Heart disease takes the lives of more women in the country than any other disease each year, yet so many don’t
even know they're at risk,” said Shelby Wheeler, Alpha Phi Red Dress Gala co-chair. "Alpha Phi is committed to raising awareness and money for cardiac-care research with this fun event for the UM and Missoula communities."

Alpha Phi International Fraternity was founded at Syracuse University in 1872 as one of the first Greek societies for women. Alpha Phi is dedicated to promoting sisterhood, cultivating leadership, encouraging intellectual curiosity and advocating service. The organization comprises more than 150 collegiate chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada. Chi chapter of Alpha Phi was established at UM in 1918.

The Alpha Phi Foundation is the sorority’s philanthropic and educational partner. Through contributions from chapters, individual members and friends, the foundation supports women’s cardiac health and other charitable and educational projects.

Contact: Shelby Wheeler and Danielle Tribble, UM Alpha Phi Red Dress co-chairs, reddressmt@gmail.com.
UM Ranked No. 8 Great Value College with Beautiful Campus

February 02, 2016

MISSOULA – Great Value Colleges recently ranked the University of Montana No. 8 of 35 for offering a great value on education in a beautiful setting. “35 Great Value Colleges with Beautiful Campuses” can be accessed online at

UM earned the No. 8 position for the number of awards and recognition the campus has received; notable features, such as significant architecture; campus location; student retention rates; and affordability.

“We were particularly impressed by [UM's] naturally beautiful setting at the foot of Mount Sentinel,” wrote Gabrielle Gibeily, editor of Great Values Colleges.

Great Value Colleges sourced information from the National Center for Education Statistics’ College Navigator Database, Wikipedia, the individual schools' websites and other “most beautiful college campuses” list articles.

Great Value Colleges awarded points to each institution to determine its ranking. The point categories are:

- **Affordability**: Net cost under $10,000 (2 points) and under $15,000 (1 point).

- **Awards and Recognition**: International accolade (2 points), national accolade (1 point), appearance on the National Register of Historic Places (1 point).

- **Other Recognition**: Inclusion on other noteworthy “most beautiful college campuses” list articles (1 point per list).

- **Notable Features**: Features such as significant architecture, famous buildings, outdoor activity centers, farms, botanical gardens, arboretums, historical relevance, etc. (1 point each, or 2 points if there are several types of one feature, such as gardens).

- **Location**: If the location is of certain significance, such as part of a national park or forest, on a hilltop or mountain, forest, etc. (1 point).

- **Student Enjoyment**: Full-time student retention rates, as reported by College Navigator, higher than 75 percent (1 point) and 90 percent and higher (2 points).

In cases where two or more schools had the same number of points, their rank order was determined by the schools' affordability. The schools with lower net costs, as reported by the College Navigator Database, received the better ranking. UM earned 14 points.

For more information call Great Value Colleges Editor Gabrielle Gibeily at 412-527-4674 or email gabrielle@greatvaluecolleges.net.

**Contact**: Sharon O'Hare, UM associate vice president for enrollment services and student success, 406-243-5672, sharon1.ohare@umontana.edu.
UM Orders Zero-Emission Electric Buses for UDASH Fleet

February 02, 2016

MISSOULA – The Associated Students of the University of Montana recently announced its decision to “go electric” with the purchase of zero-emission battery-electric buses. With approval by the Montana University System Board of Regents, the student-led transit agency will be the first in the U.S. to bring fast-charging electric buses to a University fleet.

Proterra is the only company that offers the fast-charging electric bus, and ASUM is its first university client to make a purchase. ASUM Transportation ordered two 40-foot Catalyst Fast Charge buses and a charging station for its campus routes. The buses are expected to arrive and enter into service in summer 2016.

“We take great pride in our decision to go electric,” said Jordan Hess, ASUM Office of Transportation director. “This innovate service aligns with student advocacy and reduces our carbon footprint. The buses will be purchased with student fee money and in the long run will offer the University substantial cost savings.”

Founded in 1999 by a student referendum, ASUM Transportation has seen its ridership grow to nearly 15,000 people per week. Last year alone it provided more than 400,000 complimentary rides to students, staff, faculty and
visitors. Hess said ASUM’s purchase of zero-emission, battery-electric buses is a testament to its environmental stewardship and will help UM meet its goal of carbon neutrality.

According to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Proterra buses will immediately improve local air quality when they enter service, reducing emissions by 1,392 tons during their 12-year lifespan. DEQ also estimates that nearly 123,500 gallons of diesel fuel will not be burned as a result of the transition to the new technology.

ASUM aims to finance the buses through the state of Montana’s INTERCAP Loan Program. ASUM received a Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is administered by the DEQ. The $163,191 grant aims to improve public health by reducing emissions and particulate matter.

“DEQ’s diesel emissions reduction program has worked with ASUM in the past,” said DEQ Program Manager Brian Spangler. “This electric fleet initiative is by far the most aggressive transportation program we have seen in Montana.”

“Bringing more zero-emission buses to university campuses around the U.S. will be an integral part of Proterra’s next stage of growth, and we couldn’t be happier to announce UM as our first university customer,” said Ryan Popple, CEO of Proterra. “Millennials are driving less and seeking out transit more. With this increase in demand, our mission is to guarantee that younger riders have clean, quiet, emission-free public transportation.”

For more information about ASUM Transportation visit http://udash.org.

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**Note to the media:** Proterra Catalyst photos and B-roll footage of can be accessed online http://www.proterra.com/news-center/media-kit/ and at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1YW1LV6S_w.

**Contact:** Jordan Hess, director, ASUM Office of Transportation, 406-243-2045 (office), 406-431 3222 (cell), jordan.hess@umontana.edu; Lauren Burke or Dierdre Lee, MissionCTRL for Proterra, 415-429-8124, pr@proterra.com.
SpectrUM, We Are Montana in the Classroom Travels to Bozeman

February 02, 2016

MISSOULA – Educators and role models from University of Montana’s spectrUM Discovery Area and We Are Montana in the Classroom program will visit Bozeman Thursday, Feb. 4, to share their passion for learning and exploring with K-12 students.

At Whittier Elementary School, spectrUM will lead in-school field trips with its “Best in Show” exhibition, a collection of some its most popular traveling exhibits. Featuring hands-on exhibits and activities that explore neuroscience, health, nanotechnology, physics and engineering, “Best of Show” will transform the school’s gym into a powerful science learning center.

Students also can explore the exhibition with family, friends and community members at a free Family Science Night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, at Whittier Elementary School.

While spectrUM visits Whittier, UM higher education and career role models from We Are Montana in the Classroom will share UM’s research and educational opportunities with students at Bozeman High School. Mark Reiser of UM’s Department of Physics and Astronomy and Timothy Chester of Missoula College’s Energy Technology Program will
lead hands-on activities and demonstrations on physics and energy technology during classroom visits throughout the day.

An interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula, spectrUM Discovery Area is committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, serving more than 50,000 Montanans annually through its in-museum and mobile programs. SpectrUM’s Bozeman tour stop is powered by Whittier Elementary School.

We Are Montana in the Classroom partners with more than 100 UM faculty members, professionals and graduate students to inspire K-12 students about higher education and career pathways. This academic year, the program aims to reach 10,000 students through statewide tours, local classroom visits and distance-learning experiences.

SpectrUM and We Are Montana in the Classroom belong to the UM Broader Impacts Group in the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship.

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

For more information on booking a school visit or to learn more about We Are Montana in the Classroom’s array of free programming, call spectrUM STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828.

Contact: Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Journalist and novelist Ken Wells will deliver the eighth annual Jeff Cole Distinguished Lecture at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29, in the University of Montana School of Law Room 101. The event, hosted by the UM School of Journalism, is free and open to the public.


According to the bio on his website (http://bayoubro.com/), Wells grew up in Bayou Black, Louisiana, where his father “was a part-time alligator hunter and snake collector and full-time payroll clerk for a local sugar mill” and his mother was “a homemaker and gumbo chef extraordinaire.” Wells began writing stories for his hometown paper when he was 19 years old and served as editor from 1973 to 1975. After graduating from the master’s program at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, he worked as a reporter for the Miami Herald for four years and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his series on how an agribusiness drainage system was destroying the Everglades.
Wells joined The Wall Street Journal in San Francisco in 1982, covering a variety of stories across the West and writing the popular Page 1 “middle column” feature. He transferred to its London branch in 1990 and traveled extensively, reporting on the first Persian Gulf War and nonracial democracy in South Africa. Wells moved to the New York branch in 1993 and worked as both a writer and editor, with two of his reporters winning Pulitzers. While working in New York, he won the American Society of Newspaper Editors’ distinguished headline-writing award in 1994. He joined Bloomberg News in 2009.

Wells also has written five novels about Cajun culture in Louisiana and two nonfiction narratives. He has edited two anthologies of The Wall Street Journal’s front-page stories. He currently serves as an adjunct faculty at Columbia University’s graduate School of Journalism. He received an honorary doctorate from Nicholls State University and an induction as a Louisiana Legend by Louisiana Public Broadcasting in 2009.

In 2015 Wells left Bloomberg News to work on a book about the “social and cultural history of gumbo.” It is scheduled to be published in 2017.

To read more about Wells, visit his website at http://bayoubro.com/.

Contact: Alyssa Rabil, UM School of Journalism media and information coordinator, 406-243-4366, alyssa.rabil@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Sara Rinfret, University of Montana political science assistant professor, recently was named a 2016 Fulbright Specialist for public administration.

Rinfret will serve as a Fulbright Specialist at the University of Aarhus in Denmark during February and March. She will work with top public administration practitioners and scholars at UA to lead an environmental policy analysis workshop on innovative regulatory solutions; write environmental science and policy curriculum for UA’s master’s degree program; and help to develop a new survey research tool to examine the relationships between environmental regulators and the regulated community.

The Fulbright Scholar Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program awards teaching and research grants to nearly 800 U.S. faculty and professionals in a variety of fields. Currently, the Fulbright Scholar Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

For more information on the Fulbright Scholar Program, visit http://www.cies.org.
Contact: Sara Rinfret, UM assistant professor of political science, 406-243-4076, sara.rinfret@mso.umt.edu.
UM Wilderness Institute Invites Public to Attend Free Lecture Series

February 01, 2016

MISSOULA – The Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana invites UM students and the public to the annual Wilderness Issues lecture series. The series kicks off at 7:10 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, in Gallagher Business Building 122.

This year’s lecture series, “What’s the Wild Worth? The Price of Nature’s Amenities Through a 21st Century Conservation Lens,” will focus on the relationship between the natural amenities of land, water, wildlife, fish, intact ecological relationships and natural systems, and how these natural amenities are related to land conservation through economics and local, regional or national well-being.

“As we continue as a nation, and a global economy, to focus more on cost-benefit analyses regarding nature and human activity, lessons in economics and valuation become an ever-increasingly important piece of the dialogue,” said Natalie Dawson, director of UM's Wilderness Institute.

The lecture series will feature perspectives from scholars, economists, recreationists, writers, managers and storytellers about the intrinsic and extraneous worth of wild places.
All lectures will be held Tuesdays from 7:10 to 8:30 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 122. The schedule is:

- **Feb. 2:** John Duffield, Bioeconomics Inc. president and principal
- **Feb. 9:** Jeffrey Englin, professor in the Morrison School of Agribusiness, WP Carey School of Business, Arizona State University
- **Feb. 16:** Terry Anderson, William A. Dunn Distinguished Senior Fellow and former president and executive director of The Property and Environment Research Center; John and Jean De Nault Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.
- **Feb. 23:** John Baden, founder and chairman of the Foundation for Research on Economics and the Environment and Gallatin Writers, Inc.
- **March 1:** Richard Barrett, UM economics professor emeritus and Montana state senator.
- **March 8:** Evan Hjerpe, executive director, Conservation Economics Institute.
- **March 15:** Kimiko Barrett, geographer, Headwaters Economics.
- **March 22:** TBA

For more information call the Wilderness Institute at 406-243-5361, visit the website [http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wi/education/lecture-series/default.php](http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wi/education/lecture-series/default.php) or email wi@cfc.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Natalie Dawson, UM Wilderness Institute director, 406-552-5550, wi@cfc.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – New this year, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana will release its inaugural Montana Economic Report, a comprehensive assessment of economic activity in Montana, at its Economic Outlook Seminar series, which visits Kalispell on Friday, Feb. 12.

“Montana Economic Report 2016” will cover topics such as 2015 in review, the U.S. economic outlook, an in-depth look at the Montana economy and assessments of eight key industry sectors in Montana, including technology and innovation, farming and ranching, and logistics and transportation, among others.

“We wanted to expand our coverage and analysis of Montana’s economy to include areas of importance to Montanans, and we believe this inaugural edition of the ‘Montana Economic Report 2016’ is a great start,” BBER Director Patrick Barkey said.

An in-depth look at the Montana economy, the report covers the future of coal, the outmigration of Montana’s college graduates, Montana’s property tax system, Medicaid expansion and declining commodity prices.
The report will be provided to those attending the upcoming BBER Economic Outlook Seminars around the state. Doug Young, professor emeritus of economics at Montana State University, will present the keynote, “Rising Property Taxes – What You Should Know.”

In addition to Paul Polzin’s local economic outlooks, this year’s seminars also will include local market-focused information on property taxes, manufacturing, real estate and housing.

The seminars cost $85, which includes the “Montana Economic Report 2016,” a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, lunch and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER’s award-winning business journal. Continuing education credits are available. Groups of five or more can receive a discount by registering online at http://www.bber.umt.edu/.

The seminar runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the following cities:

- **Kalispell**: Friday, Feb. 12, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Lewistown**: Tuesday, March 15, Central Montana Education Center
- **Havre**: Wednesday, March 16, MSU-Northern, Hensler Auditorium

BBER is the main research unit of the School of Business Administration at UM. Established in 1948, its mission is to inform Montanans about the economic climate in which they live and work. In addition to conducting its Economic Outlook Seminars across the state at the beginning of each year, BBER researchers engage in a wide range of applied research projects that deal with different aspects of the state economy, including survey research, economic analysis, health care research, forecasting, wood products research and energy research.

For more information or to register, visit BBER online at http://www.bber.umt.edu/ or call 406-243-5113.

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MISSOULA – Each morning, around 400 Syrian refugees arrive in Berlin on a train, hoping to find better lives than their war-torn homeland can provide. This spring, 18 University of Montana students will arrive in the German capital to tell their stories and document one of the biggest international news stories of the past year.

Under the guidance of Henriette Lowisch, an international journalist from Berlin who teaches at UM’s School of Journalism, Larry Abramson, UM journalism school dean, and Shane McMillan, a 2010 UM alumnus who’s now a photojournalist based in Berlin, the students will spend May 24 through June 14 interviewing refugees to produce stories in various media formats.

The idea for the trip emerged during Lowisch’s international reporting course last spring. At the end of the semester, she essentially gave her students half an hour to “reinvent” the class, and they overwhelming recommended that it involve practicing journalism in an international locale.

“Then, over the summer, the refugee crisis started accelerating,” Lowisch said. “The house I live in when I’m in Berlin over the summers actually has a guest apartment that has been made available to refugees. I come home
and there's a refugee living there, and it becomes real. The interest of the students in going to Berlin, and news happening in front of my eyes, those combined gave us the inspiration to create this study abroad program."

The majority of the students who will travel to Berlin are enrolled in the journalism school, but others hail from majors such as German and political science. One student, a German major with a minor in computer science, hopes to build a smartphone app refugees can use to reconnect with family members and navigate the city.

“To me, this is much more fun and exciting to do this with University of Montana students,” Lowisch said. “Montana students have always struck me as more open-minded than students in big cosmopolitan centers. They actually relate to people in their stories. They can relate to refugees, and they can also relate to Germans who might feel threatened by the refugee movement.”

The students are fundraising for the program, which they expect to cost a total of $33,700. For more information on how to support the project, email Lowisch at henriette.lowisch@umontana.edu.

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