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March 2016 news releases

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MISSOULA – The Associated Students of the University of Montana Off-Campus Renter Center will host the annual Housing and Community Resources Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, April 18, in the University Center Atrium.

The event aims to educate current and potential student renters on the various options for Missoula rentals and to link them to the community resources available to off-campus students. Multiple participating organizations that offer rental services include property management companies, city agencies, sustainability organizations, local businesses and University agencies.

“The Housing and Community Resources Fair is the perfect one-stop shop for students looking for information about any aspect of living off-campus as a renter,” center Director Katherine Auge said. “The event brings property management companies and service providers together so that students can get all of their questions answered in one place.”

This year, a discussion will be held the same week from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, in University Center Atrium.
Room 333. Both events are free and open to the public.

The panel will feature experts in the field, including an attorney from Montana Legal Services Association, licensed property managers and student renters who have learned from a variety of rental experiences. The event provides an opportunity for both experienced renters and those new to the rental market to learn how to dodge some of the common mistakes student renters often make. Attendees are encouraged to bring any questions about the rental process in Missoula.

The ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center is an advocacy agency dedicated to empowering students in asserting their rights, encouraging neighborhood relationships, advocating for student renting rights and assisting students with the rental process.

For more information on the events, call Auge at 406-243-2017 or email katherine.auge@mso.umt.edu.

###

**Contact:** Katherine Auge, ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center director, 406-243-2017, katherine.auge@mso.umt.edu.
UM Students Conduct Research to Identify Communication Skills Desired by Employers

April 13, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana students in the Department of Communication Studies recently completed a research project to identify the communication skills most desired by employers.

According to a recent study conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, communication skills are among the most strongly desired characteristics of job candidates. However, few people receive formal training in how to actually display competent communication in a job interview.

To find out more about what competent communication looks like in a job interview, a group of UM students in Professor Steve Yoshimura’s Communication Research Methods course conducted a study to learn which communicative displays are most appealing to employment interviewers.

The students – Ashley Robertson, Allie Simon, Connor Gustafson, Lydia Howe and Colin Schifferman – contacted
over 200 human resources managers in 41 states to find out what kind of interview behaviors are most appealing. They specifically examined what are known as “immediacy behaviors,” which are sets of verbal and nonverbal behaviors that people display when acting warm, likable and friendly, such as head nods, eye gaze, attentive posture, smiling and active use of gestures.

The students recorded three versions of a mock interview, with the one of the students acting as an interviewee who displayed either low immediacy, moderate immediacy or high immediacy during a one-minute segment of an interview with a career counselor at UM Career Services.

Using an online survey program, they randomly assigned the HR managers to watch one of the three videos, and then asked them to indicate how communicatively competent and how friendly, warm and likable the person seemed, and how likely they would be to hire that person if they were doing the interview.

Of the 39 managers who responded, those who saw the interviewee display high immediacy reported being more than almost three times as likely to hire the actor than were the managers who saw the person display low immediacy. The high-immediacy display also made the person seem more likeable and communicatively competent as well.

The students concluded that when employers say that they are looking for employees with good communication skills, they probably mean that they are looking for someone who seems responsive and attentive toward others.

“An important thing for an interviewee to know is that employers are looking for people who can get along and be responsive to the needs of others,” Yoshimura said. “Normally, this means using small nonverbal behaviors such as sitting attentively with one’s body oriented toward the interviewer, looking at the interviewer while listening, nodding his or her head while listening, gesturing while speaking and smiling at appropriate times during the interview.”

The study is now in preparation for publication review.

###

Contact: Steve Yoshimura, professor, UM Department of Communication Studies, 406-243-4951, stephen.yoshimura@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana College of Humanities and Sciences will honor four recipients of its 2016 Teaching Awards, which recognize excellence in educators in the college during the 2015-16 academic year.

The 2016 teaching awards will be presented to the recipients during the annual H&S Dialogue event at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14, in Interdisciplinary Sciences Building Room 110. The event is free and open to the public.

“This year’s recipients engage their students in courses from Human Geography to Physical Anthropology, from Discrete Math to Game and Mobile Applications,” said Jenny McNulty, acting dean of UM’s College of Humanities and Sciences. “I am amazed by the talented and dedicated educators we have in H&S.”

This year, the Helen and Winston Cox Educational Excellence Award goes to mathematical sciences Associate Professor Cory Palmer and anthropology Assistant Professor Meradeth Snow. The award recognizes junior faculty members for their excellence and dedication.

Before landing at UM, Palmer taught and researched at the University of Illinois and the Alfred Renyi Institute of
Mathematics in Budapest, Hungary. He now teaches upper-level mathematics at UM. Students and colleagues say Palmer is highly respected for the thoughtful and caring approach he brings to his courses.

Snow has brought an energetic and rigorous approach to her teaching since taking her position in the Department of Anthropology. Not only is she known for her amazing lectures and hands-on coursework, she also has doubled the department’s skull collection and is working to develop two new DNA labs in the Social Science Building.

The two other faculty members receiving awards this spring are geography Professor David Shively and Department of Computer Sciences Lecturer Michael Cassens.

Shively is the recipient of the William Reynolds Award for Excellence in Teaching Across the Curriculum. Since arriving at UM in 2004, Shively has taught courses that engage students at all levels, frequently meeting with students to provide feedback and offer guidance on course projects, and simultaneously serving as adviser to a considerable number of graduate students.

“His office door is almost always open,” said one student in Shively’s nomination. “Dr. Shively is a genuine and welcoming person, a fantastic professor and a deserving candidate for [this award].”

Founded by the H&S External Advisory Board, the William Reynolds Award for Excellence in Teaching Across the Curriculum is named in honor of Reynolds, an alumnus of H&S, advisory board member and longtime friend of UM. The award recognizes a faculty member for his or her excellence in teaching at all levels of curriculum.

Cassens is the recipient of the David B. Friend Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Introductory Level. A graduate of UM, he is best known for being a patient and enthusiastic instructor with a passion for technology, which becomes infectious among the students taking his introductory computer science courses. Cassens also is highly engaged in the community, and his research in mobile application development and his interest in designing educational games has resulted in after-school programs for primary schoolchildren and summer camps for middle schoolchildren. The David B. Friend Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Introductory Level recognizes excellence in teaching by nontenure-track faculty members.

For more information regarding these awards or the Dialogue event, call Ian Withrow, UM College of Humanities and Sciences media and information coordinator, at 406-243-2683 or email ian.withrow@mso.umt.edu.

###

Contact: Ian Withrow, media and information coordinator, UM College of Humanities and Sciences, 406-243-2683, ian.withrow@mso.umt.edu.
Expert in Family, Child, Maternal Health to Lecture at UM

April 13, 2016

MISSOULA – Visiting scholar and expert in family, child and maternal health Abebaw Gebeyehu Worku will present during the University of Montana Global Public Health Spring Lecture Series on Wednesday, April 20.

Worku, director of the Institute of Public Health at the University of Gondar in Ethiopia, will present “Maternal and Child Health Care in Ethiopia” at 6:40 p.m. in the UM’s Gallagher Business Building Room 123. This event is free and open to the public.

The lecture will provide an overview of population-level health indicators, health care delivery practices and public health in rural Ethiopia. A discussion will follow.

Worku earned his doctorate in public health from Addis Ababa University in 2013. His areas of expertise include maternal and child health, reproductive health, family planning and adolescent health. He has served as a department chair of epidemiology and biostatistics and as director of the North Gondar Zone health center team. Worku has had his work published, has active research projects and serves as an in-country expert consultant.
His lecture is part of UM’s 2016 Global Public Health Spring Lecture Series, “Global Public Health: Experiences and Insights,” which features weekly lectures by prominent health care practitioners and professionals who work locally and around the world. The lectures cover timely topics such as Ebola or sanitation through the real-world experiences of Montana health care practitioners. For a full schedule of the spring lecture series, visit http://hs.umt.edu/globalpublichealth/lecture-series/lecture-series-schedule-2016.php.

Worku also will present on other topics at UM during the month of April, which are free and open to the public. On Thursday, April 14, he will share frameworks for maximizing effective university-community partnerships from 4:10 to 5 p.m. in Skaggs Building Room 114. He will discuss the role of physical therapy and rehabilitation services in rural Ethiopia from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, in Skaggs Building Room 114.

###

Contact: Megan Schneider, UM Global Public Health program assistant, 406-243-6752, m.schneider.gph@gmail.com.
MISSOULA – Wisconsin attorney Dean Strang will appear in a moderated discussion on Friday, Oct. 7, at the University of Montana’s Dennison Theatre. The conversation will begin at 8 p.m. and will center on many of the implications of the Steven Avery case, featured in the Netflix documentary “Making a Murderer,” as well as the systemic failures of the criminal justice system.

Strang is best known for his work as one of Avery’s trial lawyers and for his first book “Worse than the Devil: Anarchists, Clarence Darrow and Justice in a Time of Terror.”

In addition, he worked five years as Wisconsin’s first federal defender, is a shareholder in three of the state’s leading criminal defense firms and co-founded StrangBradley, LLC.

He is an adjunct professor at Marquette University Law School, the University of Wisconsin Law School and University of Wisconsin’s Division of Continuing Studies. Strang is a member of the American Law Institute and serves on several charity boards, including the Wisconsin Innocence Project. His second book will be published in early 2018.
Tickets cost $25 for the general public and $15 for UM students with a valid Griz Card. Tickets will go on sale Thursday, April 14 at all GrizTix locations, including The Source in the University Center, Southgate Mall, Worden’s Market and MSO Hub. They also can be purchased online at http://www.griztix.com or by phone at 406-243-4051 or 888-MONTANA. Student tickets are available only at the Adams Center Box Office or the UC Source.

###

Contact: Ellen VanSlyke, marketing coordinator, UM Productions, 406-243-4719, marketing@umproductions.org.
MISSOULA – Master of Fine Arts graduate students Beth Huhtala and David Tarullo will present their thesis exhibitions April 12-21 in the University of Montana Gallery of Visual Arts.

An opening reception for the exhibitions will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14. The event is free and open to the public and includes refreshments.

The sculpture, paintings and drawings featured in Huhtala’s exhibition, “Subsurface,” are brightly colored with energetic compositions. Her main subjects are hybrid animal/human characters who take on multiple forms and reference familiar fables. However, the narrative has shifted and changed, playing out new twists on life that fall into complex layers on the surface of the work.
Tarullo’s exhibition, “Tide to Cycles,” completely transforms the gallery with an installation involving light, shadow and sound. More than 150 translucent cellophane cubes of various sizes are suspended throughout the gallery, resembling a liquid surface. Tarullo collaborated with violinist Dannon Rampton to create the sound element for the installation. The exhibition references the repetition and range of human emotion through these lighting and sound cycles.

The Gallery of Visual Arts is located on the first floor of UM’s Social Science Building and is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Monday hours are available by appointment.

For more information call Cathryn Mallory, Gallery of Visual Arts director, at 406-243-2813, email gallery.visarts@umontana.edu or visit http://www.umt.edu/art/galleries/default.php.

Contact: Cathryn Mallory, UM Gallery of Visual Arts director, 406-243-2813, gallery.visarts@umontana.edu.
UM Health & Medicine Tour to Visit North-Central Montana Students, Educators

March 30, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s We Are Montana in the Classroom program is traveling Montana to share health and medicine educational and career opportunities with high school students.

In partnership with the Native American Center of Excellence, a program housed within the Skaggs School of Pharmacy, We Are Montana in the Classroom will promote UM’s new Health & Medicine initiative with high school students Monday through Thursday, April 4-7. The tour will start in Great Falls and continue to Poplar, Hays, Harlem, Rocky Boy and Box Elder. The schedule follows:

- **Great Falls**: Monday, April 4, at Great Falls high schools
- **Poplar**: Tuesday, April 5, at Poplar High School and Fort Peck Community College
- **Hays**: Wednesday, April 6, at Hays-Lodgepole High School
- **Harlem**: Wednesday, April 6, at Harlem High School and Aaniiih Nakoda College
- **Havre**: 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, social for high school teachers and college staff, Triple Dog Brewery
- **Rocky Boy**: Thursday, April 7, at Rocky Boy High School
- **Box Elder**: Thursday, April 7, at Box Elder High School
Four UM faculty members and students will lead hands-on activities and demonstrations and serve as higher education and career role models. The group includes Ginger Collins and Minako May from the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders; Jenny Lind of the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences; and Shelby Cole from the Skaggs School of Pharmacy.

While We Are Montana in the Classroom representatives work with high school students, Shane Sangrey and Kim Dixon with the Native American Center of Excellence will visit tribal college faculty members at Fort Peck Community College, Aaniiih Nakoda College and Stone Child College. We Are Montana in the Classroom and the Native American Center for Excellence also will host a social for high school teachers and tribal college faculty and staff members from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at the Triple Dog Brewery in Havre.

“We’re grateful to these vibrant communities for hosting us and excited to share with their students some of the many opportunities and rewarding career paths that await them in the health sciences at UM,” said Holly Truitt, who directs We Are Montana in the Classroom.

This tour is co-sponsored by the Native American Center of Excellence and the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences.

We Are Montana in the Classroom is part of the UM Broader Impacts Group in the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship. The program 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.

K-12 teachers can learn more about We Are Montana in the Classroom’s array of free programing by calling Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828, emailing jessie.herbert@umontana.edu or visiting http://www.umt.edu/big.

###

**Contact:** Jessie Herbert, education program manager, We Are Montana in the Classroom, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
UM Media Arts Students Gain Professional Film Experience

March 30, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana School of Media Arts Professor Andrew Smith, working with his twin brother Alex Smith, recently completed principal photography on “Walking Out,” their third feature film set in Montana.

Twelve UM media arts students gained valuable learning experiences as interns on the production of the father/son-survival drama. Matt Bomer, Bill Pullman and Josh Wiggins lead the cast and Brunson Green of Harbinger Pictures and Laura Ivey of Co-Op Entertainment produced the film with assistance from the State of Montana’s Big Sky Film Grant.
“Students joined the crew in a variety of capacities and became an invaluable component to creating ‘Walking Out,’” Andrew Smith said.

The students include:

- Nicholas "Kyle" Weingart of Missoula, a senior who aims to graduate this spring, who worked in the art and locations departments.
- Casey Stuckey of Missoula, who graduated from UM last spring and assisted in the grip department.
- Simon Coffin of San Jose, California, a senior who aims to graduate in the fall of 2016, and assisted in the camera department.
- Keenan Goodman of Missoula, a junior, who assisted in the art department.
- Justin Sheldon of Dutton, who graduated last fall and assisted in the grip department.
- Jeffrey Neubauer of Billings, a senior who aims to graduate this spring and assisted in the grip department.
- Trevor Cummings ofBernadino, California, a junior, who assisted in the editorial department.
- Eric Mosley of San Antonio, a junior, who assisted in the art and grip departments.
- Darien Gostas of Sheridan, Wyoming, a senior who aims to graduate this spring and assisted in the camera department.
- Jonathan Billings of Missoula, a 2014 alumnus, who assisted in the art department and craft services.
- Tom Attwater of Wichita, Kansas, a senior who aims to graduate this spring and was a stunt diver.
- Thomas Story of Emigrant, a freshman, who assisted in the grip, camera and art departments.

A number of other media arts BFA students will work on visual effects, color correction and other post-production elements of the film, under the supervision of UM Associate Professor Greg Twigg. UM students will be promoted from intern level through their work efforts, and will earned bona fide production credits on the film.

"Walking Out" is the story of David (Wiggins), a teenage urbanite, who travels to rural Montana to go hunting with his estranged “off-the-grid” father Cal (Bomer). As they ascend into the wilderness, the father and son duo struggle to connect with each other on any level. When an unexpected encounter with a grizzly bear leaves them both with serious injuries, the boy must carry his father to safety if they are to survive. The screenplay is an adaptation of the
short story written by Bozeman author David Quammen. Filming took place last November in the Livingston area, and in January in the Bozeman area.

Writers/directors Alex and Andrew Smith previously collaborated on “The Slaughter Rule” starring Ryan Gosling, and “Winter in the Blood” starring Chaske Spencer. The Smiths’ sense of aesthetics was shaped in large by their upbringing in Potomac, a rural community east of Missoula. The brothers graduated from Missoula’s Hellgate High School.

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**Contact:** Andrew Smith, UM School of Media Arts professor, 406-243-4540, andrew1.smith@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Looking to take a trip to Ireland this summer? You’re in luck, as openings are available for the annual Magic of Ireland Tour sponsored by the University of Montana Irish Studies Program and the Friends of Irish Studies.

“This tour is designed to give people the most intimate experience possible of Ireland,” said Traolach O’Riordain, UM Irish Studies Program director and tour leader. “It's not a simple sightseeing trip. We like to give people the opportunity to meet the locals, build a relationship with them and learn about the country from the people who live there.”

Stops along the tour include Galway City, Connemara, the Cliffs of Moher, Killarney, Dingle Town and the Eammon de Valera Museum in Limerick.

The trip, June 19-28, costs $1,699 per person ($1,599 for members of the Friends of Irish Studies). Airfare is not included. The final date to reserve a spot is Saturday, April 30. Proceeds from the trip benefit UM’s Irish Studies Program.
To sign up for the trip or for more information email O’Riordain at traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu, call 406-243-6359 or visit http://www.friendsofirishstudies.com/.

Contact: Traolach O’Riordain, UM Irish Studies Program director, 406-243-6359, traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Host Indian Law Week April 11-15

March 29, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Native American Law Students Association will host its annual Indian Law Week, Monday through Friday, April 11-15. This year’s theme is “Economic Development in Indian Country.”

During the week NALSA will host lunchtime presentations with speakers who will discuss a variety of topics impacting tribal communities. These sessions will be held from noon to 1 p.m. April 11-14, on the UM campus. The Monday and Wednesday presentations will be held in Law Building Room 201, and the Tuesday and Thursday lunch sessions will be held in Law Building Room 101. The discussions are free and open to the public.

NALSA encourages students, practitioners and tribal stakeholders to attend the lunchtime presentations during the week.

“Indian Law Week is focused this year on the opportunities and challenges tribal governments face for economic development within their communities,” said NALSA President Mike Trosper. “Reservation economies face a unique set of challenges, including the current legal scheme, geographic isolation and even their own cultures. Our speakers have varied backgrounds and experiences.”

Continuing Legal Education will be offered from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 15, in the Law Building Castles.
UM to Host Indian Law Week April 11-15 - UM News - University Of Montana

Center. This event requires registration online at http://www.montanabar.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=783666.

A reception, silent auction and presentation of the Ray Cross and NALSA Teaching Awards will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at the Garlington, Lohn and Robinson Sixth-Floor Plaza, located at 350 Ryman St. in downtown Missoula. Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes’ Attorney John Carter and UM law Associate Professor Anthony Johnstone will be honored at the event. Tickets cost $10 for the general public and $5 for students.

For more information visit http://www.umt.edu/law/newsevents/events/default.php, call Trosper at 406-239-2239 or email michael.trosper@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Michael Trosper, president, UM Native American Law Students Association, 406-243-2239, michael.trosper@umontana.edu.

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UM News

UM Professor Earns New Funding to Continue World’s Longest-Running Elk Study

March 29, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana ungulate habitat ecology Associate Professor Mark Hebblewhite recently received a $435,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to continue a 15-year study of migratory elk in Alberta, Canada. Since 2001 Hebblewhite and co-principal investigator Evelyn Merrill of the University of Alberta have collared and tracked more than 500 elk in one of the longest-running field research projects on the species.

By monitoring this large herd over their lifespans – through reproduction, migration and survival – this long-term study provides clues on why elk migrate, how their migrations change, the role of predators like wolves and grizzly bears on elk populations, and the effects of fire, logging, climate change and management actions, such as hunting, on the herd.

Additionally, 10 graduate students have worked on the project and hundreds of
undergraduate students from both UM and University of Alberta have learned about elk and ungulate migration through the study. One former graduate student, Scott Eggeman, now is employed with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area.

Hebblewhite also will work with students in the UM School of Journalism and UM’s geography department to provide information to the public in innovative ways.

The Ya Ha Tinda elk herd is well-known regionally because it lives in and just outside Banff National Park. The elk winter outside the park and then move into the park in the spring where they remain through fall. The region is also important as a trophy hunting area – the largest bull elk registered in Canada was harvested there decades ago.

Hebblewhite said he hopes the continued funding will shed light on why fewer of these elk migrate and what impact this loss of migration has on the overall elk population, as well as other migratory elk through the West.

“This long-term study has given us unparalleled insights into the lives of these long-lived animals,” Hebblewhite said. “Elk can live up to 20 years or more in the wild, and often our studies are too short term to really figure out what makes elk tick, why they migrate, why their populations change and how we as humans affect them. But it’s also impossible to study every elk population everywhere forever, which is why this funding will continue to ensure our long-term project provides valuable information to manage elk everywhere.”

NSF funded Hebblewhite’s study under its Long-Term Research in Environmental Biology program. Additional research support comes from hunting groups, Parks Canada, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Contact: Mark Hebblewhite, UM associate professor, College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6675, mark.hebblewhite@umontana.edu.
UM Professor Earns New Funding to Continue World’s Longest-Running Elk Study - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – A University of Montana survey recently found state manufacturers had a positive outlook for 2016, although they were somewhat less optimistic about 2016 than they were about 2015.

The survey was conducted in November 2015 by UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

“The food and beverage sectors were the most optimistic across the state,” said Todd Morgan, director of BBER’s forest industry research program and whose group also monitors the Montana manufacturing sector. “This could be due to the growth of the microbreweries and new distillers in Montana.”

He said the Missoula and Kalispell areas expressed more optimism toward 2016 than in 2015, which differed from other parts of Montana. The petroleum products sector saw the largest reduction in outlook due to the prolonged period of declining prices.

The survey also found the major concerns for Montana manufacturers continue to be finding and retaining adequate labor and skilled workers, the general economy, markets, competition and sales.
“The strong U.S. dollar relative to other currencies and slower economies in China and Europe are contributing to reduced exports by Montana manufacturers,” Morgan said, “and exports account for about 10 percent of Montana manufacturing sales.”

Paddy Fleming, director of the Montana Manufacturing Center, said the number of manufacturers in Montana has more than doubled since 1996, adding about 7 percent more employees to that workforce.

“In Montana, 81 percent of manufacturers have less than 10 employees, and they tend to be very entrepreneurial,” he said.

The BBER survey was conducted in conjunction with Montana State University’s Montana Manufacturing Extension Center, which has more than 20 years experience in growing Montana’s economy by helping manufacturers grow, innovate and increase their profitability. For more information, visit MMEC at http://www.montana.edu/mmec/.

BBER has provided a full range of survey services for more than 35 years. 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.

Established in 1948, BBER is the main research unit of UM’s School of Business Administration. It informs Montanans about the economic climate in which they live and work. In addition to conducting its Economic Outlook Seminars across the state 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.

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**Contact:** Todd Morgan, director forest industry research, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, todd.morgan@business.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area will bring “Motion,” one of its most popular traveling exhibits, to Darby on Monday, March 28.

Featuring hands-on exhibits and activities exploring the wonders of physics and engineering, “Motion” will transform the Darby School gymnasium into an interactive science museum. Highlights of the exhibition include a larger-than-life spinning turntable, a gravity well and spectrUM’s ever-popular flight simulator. This tour stop is powered by the Jane S. Heman Foundation.

Students also are able to share the “Motion” exhibition and activities with families, friends and community members at a free Family Science Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 28, at the Darby School gymnasium.

SpectrUM is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula, committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all by serving more than 50,000 Montanans annually through its in-museum and mobile programs.
Since 2006, spectrUM has brought interactive exhibits and educators to 73 schools and four public libraries in 30 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations in the state. Of the 52,000 Montanans reached by spectrUM’s mobile science program, 30 percent are Native American and over 75 percent live in rural communities.

SpectrUM Director Holly Truitt said the goal of spectrUM's mobile outreach is to “help inspire Montana's next generation of scientists, health care providers, engineers, and visionaries.”

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

The public can visit spectrUM at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula. Public hours are 11 a.m. 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 or to book a school visit, call spectrUM STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828 or visit http://spectrum.umt.edu/.

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**Contact:** Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area will bring “Motion,” one of its most popular traveling exhibits, to Hamilton Wednesday through Friday, March 30-April 1.

Featuring hands-on exhibits and activities exploring the wonders of physics and engineering, “Motion” will transform the Hamilton Middle School gymnasium into an interactive science museum. Highlights of the exhibition include a larger-than-life spinning turntable, a gravity well and spectrUM’s ever-popular flight simulator. This tour stop is powered by the Jane S. Heman Foundation.

Students also are able to share the “Motion” exhibition and activities with families, friends and community members at a free Family Science Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31, at the Hamilton Middle School gymnasium.

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Contact: Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s entrepreneurial incubator Blackstone LaunchPad will initiate a student Diversity Coalition to help eliminate barriers to entrepreneurship and encourage diverse participation.

The coalition will comprise a maximum of 10 students who will work together to assist BLP-UM in identifying and addressing obstacles to entrepreneurship and innovation that students within the Montana University System community face. Beginning at the end of March, these students will brainstorm viable solutions to barriers and receive BLP-UM support to help implement them. A passion for entrepreneurship, innovation and diversity are the key requirements for participation in this coalition.

BLP-UM is an entrepreneurial center for students, alumni, faculty and staff at UM. The organization offers free services to assist entrepreneurs in turning their ideas, skills and passions into real-world businesses and nonprofit organizations through individualized coaching and venture creation support.

BLP-UM has served over 500 entrepreneurs since its inception and hopes to include more individuals who traditionally are underrepresented in business and entrepreneurship by actively working to engage students from all
backgrounds, academic paths and interests. The Kauffman Foundation recently awarded a grant to BLP-UM to conduct research regarding female participation in entrepreneurship, specifically in the pre-entrepreneurial phase.

“This research will help us identify the obstacles women are facing in entrepreneurship, and with that information, help to break them down,” said Paul Gladen, director of BLP-UM.

For more information on how to suggest a student for the BLP-UM Diversity Coalition, email Olivia Carney at carney@mtcompact.org.

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**Contact:** Olivia Carney, Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA, 406-426-8571, carney@mtcompact.org.
UM to Host Major Fair and Declare Your Major Day

March 24, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host the UM Major Fair and Declare Your Major Day from noon to 2 p.m. Monday, March 28, in the University Center. The event is sponsored by UM’s Office for Student Success with support from the UM Bookstore.

Representatives from more than 30 academic departments will be on hand at the Major Fair in the UC Atrium to meet with students and share information on undergraduate programs available in their academic units. Current and prospective students can explore degree options at UM by networking with faculty and staff members during the event.

Representatives from student support offices will be located in UC Rooms 326-327 to help connect students with resources that can help them succeed. Light refreshments will be served and participating students can receive a coupon for 20 percent off Griz Gear at the UM Bookstore.

“Choosing a major is a big decision for students, and we are here to help,” said Brian French, executive director of UM’s Office for Student Success. “This event is a great chance for students to visit with professors and other
representatives from many different academic departments in one location."

For more information call the Office for Student Success at 406-243-2800.

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**Contact:** Brian French, executive director, UM Office for Student Success, 406-243-2565, brian.french@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana was honored with the Arbor Day Foundation’s 2015 Tree Campus USA recognition for its commitment to effective urban forest management.

The foundation created Tree Campus USA in 2008 to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals. UM achieved the title by meeting five standards, which include maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and student service-learning project.

“This is a great recognition for our beautiful UM campus and a testament to years of efforts to plant more than
2,200 trees of over 100 species,” said John Goodburn, UM arboretum committee chairman.

The UM campus was designated the official state arboretum of Montana in 1991 by an act of the state Legislature and approval by the Montana University System Board of Regents.

“In this 25th anniversary year, we have redoubled our efforts to raise public awareness of the state arboretum and the many benefits of urban trees,” Goodburn said.

Goodburn credits a community of people for continued attention to the arboretum, which helped earn UM the recent Tree Campus USA recognition.

“The honor is thanks to a dedicated grounds crew and support from the University administration, as well as various staff, citizens and faculty working on the UM Arboretum Committee to establish a diverse collection of North American woody species for public education, student instruction and a natural biological legacy for the citizens of Montana,” he said.

There now are 254 campuses across the United States with Tree Campus USA recognition. More information about the Arbor Day Foundation is available online at [http://www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org). For more information about UM’s arboretum committee, call Goodburn at 406-243-4295 or email john.goodburn@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** John Goodburn, UM arboretum committee chairman, 406-243-4295, john.goodburn@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – A University of Montana student is among a select group of students to earn the Udall Native American Congressional Internship this summer in Washington, D.C. Lillian Alvernaz and 11 other American Indian and Alaska Native college, graduate and law students, will be placed in U.S. Senate, U.S. House and federal agency offices to learn firsthand how the U.S. government works with Native nations.

Alvernaz, a traditional Assiniboine/Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate from northeast Montana, is pursuing her master’s degree in public administration, a certificate in American Indian law, as well as a Juris Doctor degree from the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at UM. She graduated with honors from UM in 2013 in Native
American studies and social work and hopes to combat violence against Native women and children.

The Udall Foundation placed Alvernaz with the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, Tribal Division, for her summer internship.

“The internship provides wonderful opportunities to work and collaborate with people involved in her field at a national level, which will then help her serve her clients better and lead in the legal protection of Native women and children,” said Laure Pengelly Drake, UM director of external scholarships and advising.

With access to a network of American Indian professionals and alumni who work on behalf of tribal nations, interns will gain a better understanding of the government-to-government relationship and how they can use this knowledge to benefit their tribes. The program, which runs June 1-Aug. 6, provides Alvernaz and the other Udall interns housing, a living allowance, transportation to and from Washington, D.C., and an educational stipend of $1,200.

For more information on the internship, call Pengelly Drake at 406-243-6140, email laure.pengellydrake@umontana.edu or visit http://udall.gov/OurPrograms/Internship/AboutInternship.aspx.

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Contact: Laure Pengelly Drake, director of external scholarships and advising, UM Davidson Honors College, 406-243-6140, laure.pengellydrake@umontana.edu.
UM's PEAS Farm Invites Students to Grow Food for College Credit - UM News - University Of Montana

March 22, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s PEAS Farm is recruiting students for its popular summer farming internship. This six-credit class lets students get their hands dirty on a 10-acre vegetable farm, doing everything from sowing seeds and transplanting to irrigating and harvesting.

The PEAS Farm, located in Missoula’s Rattlesnake Valley north of campus, grows tens of thousands of pounds of produce for its 100-member Community Supported Agriculture program, the Missoula Food Bank, the WIC program and a mobile market for seniors.

PEAS Farm interns learn about propagation in the greenhouse, season extension, transplanting, direct seeding, farm planning, use of cover crops, harvest and post-harvest care of vegetable crops, drip and overhead irrigation, tractor implements, hand and mechanical cultivation, composting, weeds and pests, Community Supported Agriculture management and distribution, orchard care and more. Farm interns also learn to cook for the class and to collaborate with other Missoula community groups.

The 2016 summer PEAS class runs from May 18 to Aug. 29. Students learn farming skills from 8 a.m. to noon
Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, the class will take field trips to other farms in the area. Students also get two weeks of their choosing off during the summer.

Current UM students can enroll through CyberBear using course number ENST 396 for the undergraduate internship and ENST 590.80 for graduate student internship. Applicants who are not current UM students also are eligible to enroll. PEAS Farm credits often are transferrable.

For more information visit the PEAS internship website at http://www.cas.umt.edu/evst/undergraduate/opportunities.php.

Contact: Josh Slotnick, director, UM PEAS Farm, 406-239-6993, joshua.slotnick@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – After receiving over 800 medical school applications and conducting approximately 110 interviews, the University of Montana’s Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana announced the results of its upcoming class of 10 training positions. The new class of family physician residents will start their three-year training at the end of June.

Interviews began in October and finished in early January. Interviewees then are ranked and matched through the National Resident Matching Program, using a computerized mathematical algorithm to line up the preferences of applicants with the preferences of program directors to fill training positions across the United States. The program provides an objective and fair process for matching applicants to residency programs.

“We are looking forward to welcoming our fourth residency class in June,” program director Dr. Ned Vasquez said. “We continue to be amazed and feel incredibly fortunate to have such excellent residents match with our program. With our mission of training family physicians for practice in the rural and underserved communities of Montana, we are optimistic that a high percentage of our residents will ultimately practice in rural and underserved areas.”
FMRWM prepares family physicians with a focus on comprehensive training that is needed to practice effectively in Montana’s rural and underserved areas. The program welcomed its first class of 10 in July 2013, and the inaugural class will graduate at the end of June. The creation of the program more than doubled the number of family medicine physicians trained in Montana each year and is expected to have a significant impact on the state’s shortage of primary care doctors in rural communities.

The 2019 class includes:

- Caitlin Blau of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, who attended Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- Dallas Clark of Pasco, Washington, who attended University of Washington School of Medicine.
- Karen Coffman of Flagstaff, Arizona, who attended University of Arizona College of Medicine.
- Julia Keyes of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who attended Medical College of Wisconsin.
- Matt Klippenstein of Reno, Nevada, who attended University of Nevada School of Medicine.
- Rachel LaRocca of Surry, New Hampshire, who attended Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth.
- Madeline Mussman of Big Sky, who attended Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- Ruben Hipolito of Orange County, California, who attended Ross University School of Medicine.
- Katie Williams of Flemington, New Jersey, who attended Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.
- Kelby Wilson of Cottonwood, Idaho, who attended University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Headquartered in Missoula, FMRWM is sponsored by UM and affiliated with the University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Network. The program’s three sponsoring hospitals in western Montana include Kalispell Regional Healthcare, Providence St. Patrick Hospital and Community Medical Center. Residents are involved in continuity clinic training at Partnership Health Center in Missoula and Flathead Community Health Center in Kalispell.

Additionally, the program works with an extensive rural training network of nine sites, including Blackfeet Community Hospital, Northwest Community Health Center, Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, Clark Fork Valley Hospital, St. Luke Community Healthcare, Community Physicians Group-Stevensville, Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital, Community Hospital of Anaconda and Barrett Hospital and Healthcare.

For more information visit [http://health.umt.edu/fmrwm/](http://health.umt.edu/fmrwm/).

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**Contact:** Rebecca Morgan, project and communications manager, Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana, 406-544-5085, rebecca.morgan@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A former deputy managing editor of the Los Angeles Times and a multimedia documentarian will be the T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professors at the University of Montana School of Journalism in the fall and spring semesters of the 2016-17 academic year.

Melissa McCoy spent 17 years at the L.A. Times, advancing from metro copy editor to a deputy managing editor supervising 250 journalists. In addition to overseeing the paper's award-winning copy desks, graphics department and researchers, she was frequently the final editor for major projects, a number of which won Pulitzer Prizes. During her newspaper and magazine career, McCoy also has been a reporter, copy chief, news editor and assignment editor.
Since leaving the Times in 2009, McCoy has been a media consultant, writer and editor, and was a visiting faculty member at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, where she’d previously served as an Ethics Fellow. She will teach a fall semester seminar at UM on reporting and writing on sensitive topics like rape, murder, suicide and mental illness.

Anne Bailey is a digital producer and visual journalist for Public Radio International/The World’s “Across Women’s Lives” initiative. She recently reported from Brazil on the Zika virus and its effect on pregnant women and newborn babies. Other recent projects include stories on women’s rights in India and women and business in Kenya.

Bailey has taught multimedia storytelling at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies; at the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute; in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tunisia and France; and at the UM School of Journalism. She will teach a spring semester course at UM on producing video across media platforms.

Both professors will work with the staff of the Montana Kaimin student newspaper.

The Pollner professorship endowment was created in 2001 by the family and friends of T. Anthony Pollner, a 1999 UM journalism alumnus who died in a motorcycle accident two years after graduating.

The program has brought 17 distinguished journalists to the school for a semester to teach a seminar and serve as a mentor to the students at the Kaimin. Several former Pollner professors have won journalism’s most coveted awards, including Pulitzer Prizes and National Magazine Awards.

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Award-winning Editor, Digital Producer Named Distinguished Pollner Professors - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Alyssa Rabil, UM journalism school media and information coordinator, 406-243-4366, alyssa.rabil@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Host Panel Discussion on Supreme Court Vacancy, Nomination

March 21, 2016

MISSOULA – A panel discussion titled “Divided We Fall: What Are the Legal and Political Implications of the Supreme Court’s Current Vacancy and Nomination?” will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 24, in the University of Montana’s Law Building Room 101. Sponsored by the Montana American Constitution Society Chapter and the UM Retirees’ Association, the event is free and open to the public.

Paul Kirgis, professor and dean of the Alexander Blewett III School of Law, will deliver opening remarks and introduce the speakers.

The speakers are U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, visiting political science Assistant Professor Patrick Peel and UM law Associate Professor Anthony Johnstone. They will address the legal and political implications of the current Supreme Court vacancy and nomination.

“Supreme Court appointments are critical events in our Constitutional system, but most Americans do not have a clear understanding of the process and its history,” Kirgis said. “This discussion will help to clarify the issues surrounding the recent vacancy created by the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia.”
For more information visit https://events.acslaw.org/rsvp?id=a0YG0000007qZC7MAM.

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**Contact:** Kaitlyn Lamb, UM law student, kaitlyn.lamb@umontana.edu.
UM School of Business Administration to Offer Master’s Degree in Business Analytics

March 18, 2016

MISSOULA – The School of Business Administration at the University of Montana will help meet a growing workforce need when it launches its new master’s degree in business analytics this fall.

The Master of Science degree, a joint effort between marketing and management information systems, will combine new elements with several existing programs at UM. The core curriculum will include the study of business intelligence, big data analysis, business statistics, statistical computing, data mining and management, and communicating insights based on data analysis and associated decision-making.

Program graduates will understand the fundamentals of statistics and programming with a strong foundation in business. They will be poised for successful careers working with data across multiple disciplines.

Employers are excited about this new program, which is on the Board of Regents’ May agenda for final approval.
“Support from the business community has been particularly strong,” said Jakki Mohr, UM Regents Professor of Marketing and the program’s core instructor. “Companies such as the R2C Group, ALPS, ATG and Montana Timber Products even helped scope out the curriculum and trial offerings of the courses.”

Demand for data analysts in the U.S. has skyrocketed in recent years. In 2013 alone, demand shot up 67 percent nationally, with local and regional employers also seeking graduates with data analytics experience. The estimated starting salary for employees with master’s degrees in data-related fields hovers around $80,000.

“The MSBA is very innovative and designed to deliver critical knowledge and skills for the technology-intensive business environment of today,” said Simona Stan, UM associate professor of marketing and the program’s director. “It serves a rapidly growing need in the marketplace and is likely to attract enrollment from both Montana business professionals who need to hone their business analytics skills and from out-of-state and international students.”

UM will be one of the first universities in the northwest to offer this type of degree. The program expects to enroll 20 to 25 students this fall, including current UM undergraduates looking to continue for an additional year to earn the master’s degree.

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Contact: Dawn Hambrick, graduate business programs manager, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-2064, dhambrick@umontana.edu.
Poet Mary Szybist to Read at UM March 25

March 17, 2016

MISSOULA – Poet Mary Szybist will read from her work at 7 p.m. Friday, March 25, in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room at the University of Montana. The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by UM's Creative Writing Program and the President's Writers-in-Residence Series.

Szybist is most recently the author of “Incarnadine,” winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Poetry. She also is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center, and the Witter Bynner Foundation in conjunction with the Library of Congress. Her first book, “Granted,” was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and winner of the Great Lakes Colleges Association’s New Writers Award. She lives in Portland, Oregon, where she teaches at Lewis & Clark College.

For more information call 406-243-5267, email creativewriting@mso.umt.edu or visit UM Creative Writing Program website at http://hs.umt.edu/creativewriting/default.php

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Contact: Karin Schalm, Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana will interview four candidates this month for the position of vice president for enrollment management and student affairs. The candidates are:

- **Andrew Hanson**, vice president for student affairs at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho.
- **John Fletcher**, associate provost in Enrollment Services at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.
- **Thomas Crady**, vice president for enrollment management at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota.

UM's vice president for enrollment management and student affairs will oversee enrollment management functions, student support and advocacy areas, and auxiliary operations. Responsibilities range from developing effective strategies to help UM recruit and retain students to overseeing the offices currently in the Division of Student Affairs. That sector includes operations such as Campus Recreation, Curry Health Center, Residence Life, UM Dining and
offices that serve veterans, Native American students and students with disabilities.

The incoming vice president will succeed Vice President for Student Affairs Teresa Branch, who will retire this spring after 13 years of service to UM.

All interested parties are welcome to attend public forums with the candidates. Each will give brief remarks to be followed by a question-and-answer period. The forums will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. on the following dates:

- **Monday, March 21** – Andrew Hanson, University Center Theater.
- **Thursday, March 24** – John Fletcher, Gallagher Business Building Room 106.
- **Monday, March 28** – M. Neil Woolf, University Center Theater.
- **Wednesday, March 30** – Thomas Crady, University Center Theater.

Hanson has served as the chief student affairs, enrollment and institutional compliance officer at Lewis-Clark State College since August 2012. Since 1991, he has worked most of his career at LCSC, serving in capacities such as dean of student services, director of recruitment and retention, and coordinator of student success programs. He also was assistant director of New Student Services at the University of Idaho from 1994 to 1996. He holds a Ph.D. in Education from UI.

Fletcher has worked as an associate provost with Enrollment Services at East Carolina University since 2010. Before that, he spent more than two decades at Auburn University in Alabama, serving in roles such as executive director of Enrollment Services, assistant vice president for Enrollment Management Services and registrar. He also worked various roles at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville from 1981 to 1988. He holds a Doctor of Education from Auburn.

Woolf has worked as associate vice president for enrollment management at Eastern Washington University since 2013. From 2008 to 2013, he was director of enrollment services and director of financial aid and student employment at Nevada State College in Henderson. He also was a senior research analyst for the Nevada System of Higher Education from 2005 to 2008, and he worked various positions at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, from 2001 to 2008. He holds a Doctor of Education from UNLV.

Crady has served as vice president for enrollment management at Gustavus Adolphus College since 2010. He was dean of the college at Dartmouth College from 2008 to 2009. He worked at Grinnell College in Iowa from 1982 to 2007, serving in roles such as vice president for student services, acting dean of admissions and financial aid, and associate dean of student affairs. He holds a Ph.D. in Education from Iowa State University.

More information and a full resume for each candidate are online at [http://www.umt.edu/president/VPEMSA%20Search.php](http://www.umt.edu/president/VPEMSA%20Search.php).

**Contact:** Peggy Kuhr, UM search committee co-chair, 406-243-2311, peggy.kuhr@umontana.edu; Sheila Stearns, UM search committee co-chair, sheila@modwest.com.
MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana will host local and international experts in health care, technology, big data and global health at its 2016 Innovation & Imagination in Global Health conference on Tuesday, April 12.

The annual conference, which explores how new challenges, technology and ideas are changing the nature of health care and how we view health at home and worldwide, will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. Sessions are free and open to the public, but participants are asked to register online ahead of time at http://www.mansfieldconference.org to ensure space at panels and the lunch reception.

Small towns, big cities and rural villages across the United States and the globe all face the same obstacles to community health and caring for individuals. Aging populations, natural disasters, epidemics, pollution and environmental changes all challenge current health care systems and present new obstacles and threats to individual and community health. New technology and creativity allow communities to confront these challenges with innovative solutions tailored to each community’s needs, geography and resources.
Speakers at Innovation & Imagination in Global Health will examine topics such as “Why are Americans Getting Increasingly Unhealthy and Living Shorter Lives?,” “How Do We Care for Our Aging Population in Asia, Europe, and North America?,” “How to Drive Innovation in Global Health,” “How Air Pollution Impacts Our Health and How We Can Deal With It” and “When Nature Turns Violent: Natural Disasters, Pandemics, and Emergency Preparedness.”

Innovation & Imagination in Global Health is part of UM’s ix5 week, which also features innovateUM, GradCon and the UM Conference on Undergraduate Research. More information on ix5 is online at http://www.umt.edu/sell/cps/i5/.

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

Contact: Abraham Kim, director, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2988, abraham.kim@umontana.edu.
UM Student Trio Advances to National Finals of Music Competition

March 17, 2016

MISSOULA – Two University of Montana School of Music students and one Missoula Hellgate High School student recently won the Northwest Division of the Music Teachers National Association’s Young Artist String Chamber Music Competition. The trio now advances to San Antonio as one of the six national finalists.
on April 2.

The Missoula Piano Trio, which comprises UM graduate student Adam Sears of Missoula on the piano, UM senior Sarah Harmsworth of Bonner on the violin and Hellgate High School student David Harmsworth, Sarah’s brother, on the cello. Their performance edged out well-qualified ensembles from Washington and Oregon for the win.

“Every phrase was beautifully conceived and performed,” the adjudicator shared with the trio and UM Professor Steven Hesla, the trio’s coach, after the winners had been announced.

Before the national finals they will perform their competition repertoire for Missoula audiences in UM’s Music Recital Hall. The program will include Dmitri Shostakovich’s “Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 8” and Ludwig van Beethoven’s “Piano Trio in D Major, Op. 70, No. 1.” The trio will perform:

- 5-6 p.m. Monday, March 21,
- 5-6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, and
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 26.

The performances are free and open to the public but any contributions made to UM’s Keyboard Program will help defray the trio’s travel costs. Donations can be made at the door or online at http://www.umt.edu/music/pianoser.

Contact: Steven Hesla, UM music professor, 406-243-6055, steven.hesla@umontana.edu.
UM Hosts 16th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza with Support From Garden of Read’n

March 17, 2016
MISSOULA – The University of Montana Oval will be transformed into a sea of colorful eggs and mouthwatering treats on Saturday, March 26, during the region’s largest Easter egg hunt.

Because of support from Missoula business Garden of Read’n, the University is once again able to host this event for western Montana children.

In 2015, Michael Burks, owner of the Garden of Read’n, stepped up as the organizer and underwriter of the event when it was at risk of being canceled. With a mere two weeks to pull the event together, Burks and his staff committed to continuing this treasured community event. This year, Garden of Read’n has returned as the presenting sponsor and plans to make the event better than ever.

“This is really all about the kids,” Burks said. “This year we wanted to bring in some new elements that will enhance the event. Now kids and their families can look forward to a fire truck, a police car, a food truck, a bounce house and a hockey shootout game.”

Garden of Read’n will donate 30,000 eggs filled with candy and prizes. Local businesses and organizations also have donated thousands of coupons for free items or admission. Children ages 9 and under are invited to bring their baskets and search for the thousands of eggs during the hunt, which gets underway when the Main Hall bell tolls 1 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

There will be separate age-group sections for 0-2, 3, 4-5, 6-7 and 8-9. There also will be special certificates in each section for larger prizes, such as UM summer camps and dance lessons, cooking classes from Taste Buds Kitchen, a punch pass to the Montana Natural History Center, deluxe Easter baskets and one brand-new bike in each age section.

KPAX Chief Meteorologist Erin Yost and Zoo FM radio personality Billy Jenkins will emcee the event. The Easter Bunny, as well as UM mascot Monte and Maulers mascot Slash, will be on hand for the fun.

Participants are encouraged to bike, bus, carpool or walk to campus. The Mountain Line’s Saturday route schedules can be found online at http://www.mountainline.com/maps-schedules/route-schedules/.

The Missoula Easter Eggstravaganza is presented and organized by the Garden of Read’n with help from UM’s University Relations. Other sponsors include Northwestern Energy, Republic Services, Missoula Pediatric Dentistry, The M Store and Culligan Water.

This year, members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity will volunteer for the event as part of their national day of service. Nearly 40 fraternity members, together with the UM Advocates, a student ambassador group, will help spread candy and eggs across the Oval the morning of the hunt.

For more information call Garden of Read’n Manager Kiomi Burks at 406-728-3032 or email kiomi@gardenofreadn.com, or call University Relations Event Coordinator Andrea Lewis at 406-243-5478 or email andrea.lewis@umontana.edu.

Contact: Michael Burks, Easter Eggstravaganza organizer, 406-728-3032, michael@gardenofreadn.com; Andrea Lewis, event coordinator, UM’s University Relations, 406-243-5478, andrea.lewis@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Motion, one of the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area’s popular traveling exhibits, will visit Polson on Monday, March 21.

Featuring hands-on exhibits and activities exploring the wonders of physics and engineering, Motion will transform the Linderman Elementary School gymnasium into an interactive science museum. Highlights of the exhibition include a larger-than-life spinning turntable, a gravity well and spectrUM’s ever-popular flight simulator.

Families and friends also are invited to attend a free Family Science Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at the school, where students will be able to share spectrUM’s Motion exhibition and activities with family, friends and community members. The Polson tour stop is powered by Onward and Upward Inc.

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

Since 2006, spectrUM has traveled exhibits and educators to 73 schools and four public libraries in 30 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations in Montana. In total, spectrUM’s mobile science program has served more than 52,000 people, of whom 30 percent are Native American and over 75 percent live in rural communities.

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

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

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

Contact: Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
Montana Professor of the Year to Deliver Lecture March 29

March 16, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana Professor Doug Emlen will present a lecture titled “Extravagant Weapons: The Story Behind Arms Races in Animals and People” at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, in the North Ballroom of the University Center. The event is free and open to the public. A reception with light refreshments will follow at 5 p.m. The lecture is sponsored by UM’s Office of the Provost of the Office of the President.

The lecture will celebrate Emlen’s 2015 CASE Montana Professor of the Year award, which recognizes the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country. It is awarded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Emlen is one of 35 winners selected nationwide from nearly 400 nominated professors.

Emlen is an internationally renowned expert on horns, antlers, claws and other animal armaments. He earned his doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology from Princeton University in 1994 and joined the UM faculty in 1996. Emlen teaches Behavior and Evolution, Insect Biology and a number of graduate courses at UM.

Every animal has a weapon of one sort or another, and the overwhelming majority of weapons stay small. Yet,
sprinkled through the tree of life are species where weapons become extreme. Occasionally, human manufactured weapons also evolve to extremes. Emlen's research reveals that the same critical conditions trigger arms races in both cases, and the most crucial prerequisite is duels. Emlen will discuss beetles and battleships, crabs and the Cold War as he explains how the journey that begins with biology becomes the story of all weapons.

Contact: Zoe Phelan, events and communications, UM Office of the Provost, 406-243-4689, zoe.phelan@mso.umt.edu.
Native American Students from C.S. Porter to Experience Behind-the-Scenes Tour at UM

March 16, 2016

MISSOULA – Native American students from C.S. Porter Middle School in Missoula will experience hands-on activities and get behind-the-scenes access to the University of Montana’s labs, studios and performance spaces during a campus visit on Tuesday, March 22.

While on campus, the 50 visiting students will tour the Payne Family Native American Center, where they will explore Native American games with Native American studies Professor Wade Davies and experience a planetarium show led by the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Through We Are Montana in the Classroom, they also will visit the School of Journalism, the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and the School of Theatre and Dance.
At the School of Journalism, students will have the chance to practice broadcast journalism in front of a green screen with Assistant Professor Jason Begay and Professor Ray Ekness. Begay also will share with students UM’s Native News Project and opportunities for undergraduate journalists at UM.

At the Skaggs School of Pharmacy’s Native American Center of Excellence, students will meet with Program Coordinator Wilena Old Person and Student Resource Adviser Shane Sangrey, who will lead activities with the school’s SIM Man patient simulator.

With School of Theatre and Dance Professor Alessia Carpoca and Director Mike Monsos, students will learn hands-on how theaters use molds and 3-D printing to create props.

The campus visit is designed to promote students’ sense of belonging in higher education and preview the array of opportunities awaiting them at UM.

“I remember being in high school and being really intimidated by college, which seemed so mysterious and intense,” Begay said. “I hope projects like this help students see that college isn’t a foreign concept; it’s fun and extremely beneficial.”

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 Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828 or email jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.

Contact: Jessie Herbert, We Are Montana in the Classroom program manager, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
UM Partnership Offers Regional Business Development Program

March 16, 2016

MISSOULA – The School of Extended & Lifelong Learning at the University of Montana, together with Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce and Cascadia Business Development, now offers a program for regional businesses and organizations to learn how to grow their business.

The P5 program shares strategies to align a company’s purpose, people, processes, products and profit. It is designed for business executives, decision makers, owners and next-generation leaders. Participants must have access to financial and strategic information to fully take part in the program.

“We anticipate a high demand for this program,” said Roger Maclean, dean of the School of Extended & Lifelong Learning. “As a result, we will kick off new roundtables on a monthly basis throughout the year.”

The program requires a three-hour time commitment for three months. Through facilitated, peer roundtable discussions, business leaders will learn how to grow their business responsibly. Program participants also will receive business capacity and personal strength assessments; monthly in-person coaching sessions; an industry profile outlining benchmarks, challenges and opportunities; and access to online exclusive interviews with business
experts in accounting, legal matters, technology, branding, human resources and more.

Registration costs $299 a month or $897 total and is available online at http://www.campusce.net/umextended/course/course.aspx?C=361&pc=25&mc=30&sc. For more information call Beth Burman Frazee, School of Extended & Lifelong Learning marketing director, at 406-243-6721, email beth.burman-frazee@umontana.edu or visit http://www.umt.edu/sell/programs/profdev/.

Contact: Beth Burman Frazee, marketing director, UM School of Extended & Lifelong Learning, 406-243-6721, beth.burman-frazee@umontana.edu.
UM Professor Wins Annual Composers’ Competition

March 16, 2016

MISSOULA – Emilie LeBel, assistant professor of composition at the University of Montana School of Music, became the first woman to win the Land's End Ensemble’s Composer Competition.

The Land's End Ensemble, dedicated to excellence in performance and recording of new music, as well as to enriching collaborations with eminent composers and artists, holds an annual national
composer competition in Canada. This year’s competition was March 6 at the University of Calgary.

LeBel responded to a call for piano trio works in 2015. She was among three finalists selected by a blind jury who were flown to Calgary, Alberta, to participate in the competition concert. Each finalist presented their piece during the concert, the jury deliberated, and the winner was announced. LeBel won with her piece “Oranda.” She will receive a $1,500 commissioning prize after composing a new piece for a piano trio that will be premiered next season by the Land’s End Ensemble.

For more information visit http://www.landsendensemble.ca/comp-education/.

Contact: Emilie LeBel, assistant professor of composition, UM School of Music, 406-544-6695, emilie.lebel@umontana.edu.
UM Professor Wins Annual Composers’ Competition - UM News - University Of Montana
Renowned Researcher Returns from Egypt’s Valley of the Kings to Speak at UM

March 15, 2016

MISSOULA – Donald Ryan, archaeologist and faculty Fellow in the Division of Humanities at Pacific Lutheran University, will speak at the University of Montana at 7 p.m. Monday, March 28, in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center’s Montana Theatre. UM’s Department of Anthropology and the Montana Museum of Art & Culture will co-host the event, which is free and open to the public.

Ryan recently returned from working in Egypt’s Valley of the Kings where his discoveries included lost tombs and controversial mummies. His lecture, “Ancient Egypt: The Greatest Discoveries You’ve Probably Never Heard Of,” will not only update the audience on his most recent research in Egypt but also will focus on 200 years of exploration that revealed discoveries which are, according to Ryan, as deserving of recognition as more popular discoveries such as the Tomb of Tutankhamun, the Great Pyramids and the Rosetta Stone.

In addition to Egyptian archaeology, Ryan’s interests include Polynesian archaeology and the history of exploration
and ancient languages and scripts. He has led many expeditions and is the author of 11 books and numerous scientific and popular articles on archaeological subjects.

For several years, Ryan worked closely with world-renowned Norwegian explorer, archaeologist and writer, the late Thor Heyerdahl. Ryan is a research associate at the Kon-Tiki Museum in Oslo, Norway, and a Fellow of both the Explorers Club and the Royal Geographical Society.

Ryan has previously presented at UM, under the co-sponsorship of the Department of Anthropology and the MMAC, to at-capacity audiences.

For more information on Ryan visit https://community.plu.edu/~ryandp/.

Contact: Kelly Dixon, UM anthropology professor, UM Cultural Heritage and Anthropological Research Group director, 406-243-5681 or 612-247-6414 (cell), kelly.dixon@umontana.edu; Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture at UM, 406-243-2020 or 406-544-6228 (cell), barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu.
UM Grad Student First from Montana to Win Prestigious Journalism Scholar Award

March 15, 2016

MISSOULA – Katie Riordan, a master’s degree candidate in journalism at the University of Montana, received an Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholar Award at the 2016 Annual Scholar Awards Luncheon held at the Yale Club in New York City.

A graduate of the University of Colorado,
Riordan was among 15 aspiring foreign correspondents selected by a panel of leading journalists out of 175 applicants from 50 different colleges and universities. She is the first student from a college in Montana to win the award.

Riordan’s winning application told how she worked in Yemen and then went to the Republic of Somaliland in the Horn of Africa and covered the effects of drought on nomadic tribes, among other environmental and political stories. Her interest lies in reporting on the impact of climate change and the growing number of climate refugees.

Riordan earned an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Wall Street Journal in London. She also received the Flora Lewis Fellowship, named for the former Paris bureau chief of The New York Times, from Michelle LaRoche, editor of development at The Wall Street Journal.

Acclaimed Associated Press Senior Correspondent for Pakistan and Afghanistan Kathy Gannon spoke at the luncheon, and Reuter’s Editor-in-Chief Stephen Adler hosted a reception for the award winners at Reuters the previous night.

The award winners also received risk management and situational awareness training from Global Journalist Security at AP headquarters in New York City and met privately with editors from BuzzFeed, AP and Reuters at a special breakfast and during a post-luncheon panel. Other media organizations at the luncheon included Bloomberg, CBS News, GroundTruth Project, IBT Media and The Wall Street Journal.

The OPC Foundation is the nation’s largest and most visible scholarship program encouraging aspiring journalists to pursue careers as foreign correspondents.

For more information on the OPC Foundation and its scholarship/fellowship program, visit http://www.overseaspressclubfoundation.org/.

Contact: Alyssa Rabil, UM School of Journalism media information coordinator, 406-243-4366,
UM Partners for First Study of Food Use, Security in Urban Indian Community

March 14, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana, together with the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, is leading the first assessment of an urban, American Indian community’s food security and use of traditional food. The collaboration includes a Missoula research visit for one of the student researchers from Cambridge, Massachusetts, Tuesday through Saturday, March 15-19.

Harvard Kennedy School of Government student Raquel Halsey, a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, will meet with numerous members of the Missoula American Indian community, collecting oral histories and stories of traditional Native American food uses. She also will meet with UM faculty and staff during her Missoula visit.
Halsey and Native Nation Building classmate Sierra Dakin-Kuiper have partnered on the semesterlong project with UM environmental studies Assistant Professor Rosalyn LaPier and UM Native American Center of Excellence Program Director Wilena Old Person. The assessment aims to help provide a better understanding of both historic and contemporary traditional food uses and serve as a model to address food security issues within urban American Indian communities.

Under the guidance of LaPier and Old Person, Halsey and Dakin-Kuiper will present their findings at the Harvard University Native American Program gathering in mid-May. The final report will be made available to UM and the general public later in the summer.

For more information on the assessment or the upcoming visit, call LaPier at 406-243-6787 or email rosalyn1.lapier@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Rosalyn LaPier, assistant professor, UM Environmental Studies program, 406-243-6787, rosalyn1.lapier@mso.umt.edu.
UM Students Create Podcast to Tell Campus Stories

March 14, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana marketing, communications and journalism students recently launched UM’s first podcast, titled “32 Campus Drive.” Named after the University’s mailing address, the podcast can now be downloaded from iTunes by searching “32 Campus Drive” or on Soundcloud at https://soundcloud.com/32campusdrive.

The students, who all work as part of the student-run marketing agency called BRNTLY, use their editorial judgment to select a theme and then find people with interesting stories around that theme.

UM journalism students Claire Burgeson, a senior, and Cheri Trusler, who has since graduated, interview students, professors, alumni and people of interest in the Missoula community in an effort to dig deeper into the UM experience.

“With the recent growing popularity of podcasts, we wanted to create ‘32 Campus Drive’ as another way to share the stories of real people at UM,” said UM marketing student Chris Jambor, who helped launch the podcast. “It’s been a great learning experience and it’s been fun to produce and distribute stories through this medium.”
They edit the podcast using resources in UM’s School of Journalism and sometimes conduct interviews at UM’s Broadcast Media Center on campus.

Currently there are three episodes available. In episode No. 1, “No Business Like Show Business,” the vibrant artistic community within Missoula and at UM takes center stage. In episode No. 2, “People Helping People,” the podcast explores how the impact of UM reaches far beyond the Missoula city limits. And episode No. 3, “Powerful Women, Powerful Stories,” focuses on two women whose lives and work make the UM experience a rich and vibrant one.

“The podcast has been a great project to jump into,” Burgeson said. “It's been cool learning about some incredible things going on around campus and off-campus. It's enlightening to ask people about where they came from, how they ended up here, and reminds us that we live in a really special place.”

The students eventually hope to be able to produce the podcast weekly. Each episode is about 10 to 15 minutes in length. They have plans to release three more episodes before the end of spring semester.

Others involved in the project are UM communications senior Emily Etchart and UM marketing senior Willa Fogarty.

For more information visit http://www.brntly.co/32-campus-drive/.

Contact: Chris Jambor, UM student and marketing intern, 310-776-0774, cm.jambor@gmail.com; Claire Burgeson, UM student producer, cburgie4@gmail.com.
President’s Lecture Series to Feature Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry

March 14, 2016

MISSOULA – A winner of the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, poet and playwright will deliver the next installment of the 2015-16 President’s Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

Roald Hoffmann, who is a professor emeritus of humane letters at Cornell University, will present “The Commonalities and Differences Between the Arts and Sciences” at 8 p.m. Monday, March 21, in the Dennison Theatre. The lecture is presented in collaboration with UM’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the UM Division of Biological Sciences.

Hoffmann also will lead a seminar earlier that day titled “Two New Games for Carbon” at 3:10 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. The lecture and seminar both are free and open to the public.

Born in 1937 in Poland and a survivor of the war, Hoffmann came to the United States 12 years later and earned a doctorate from Harvard in 1962. At Cornell he taught general chemistry to first-year students, as well as courses in bonding theory and quantum mechanics.
His research focuses on the electrical structure of stable and unstable molecules, transition states in reactions, and the application of quantum chemical computational methods and qualitative arguments.

Hoffmann has published two books in his field of research, “The Conservation of Orbital Symmetry” and “Solids and Surfaces: A Chemist’s View of Bonding in Extended Structures,” and has written 610 scientific papers on other research topics.

Hoffmann’s interests have stretched into television, playwriting and poetry. He helped produce “The World of Chemistry,” a television course on introductory chemistry widely aired since 1990. He has contributed poetry to literary magazines since the 1970s, published poetry collections and co-written the play “Oxygen,” which has been translated into 10 different languages. His most recent plays include “Should’ve” and “We Have Something That Belongs to You.” He has lectured all over the world, receiving honorary degrees and other awards.

To read a biography and learn more about Hoffmann, visit his website at http://www.roaldhoffmann.com/home.

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

Contact: Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.
UM to Host 14th Annual Central and Southwest Asia Conference

March 14, 2016

MISSOULA – Faculty, students and researchers from around the world will gather to participate in the 14th annual Central and Southwest Asia Conference at the University of Montana on Wednesday through Friday, March 23-25.

The conference, hosted by the Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center at UM and jointly organized with UM’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center and the Montana World Affairs Council, will feature several panels and presentations that address timely issues such as the recent Iran nuclear deal, women as change agents in the Middle East and Muslim immigration to Europe, among others.

“Presenters at this year’s conference will offer the University of Montana, as well as the greater Missoula community, an opportunity to hear internationally renowned experts speak about issues that are in the headlines daily,” said Merhadad Kia, director of UM’s Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center. “Their presentations will enlighten us about the unfolding crises in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.”

Speakers include U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, who will deliver a keynote presentation about responsible leadership as it relates to foreign policy; Fatima Sadiqi of the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., who will speak on
women as agents of change in the Middle East; Dominic Thomas of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at UCLA, who is a foremost specialist on Muslim immigration in Europe; and Amr Al-Azm, a visiting professor who has taught at the University of Damascus and directs the scientific and conservation laboratories of antiquities and museums of Syria, will speak on the war in Syria and the destruction of Syrian antiquities.

Numerous scholars from UM departments, such as history, modern and classical languages, anthropology and the Defense Critical Language and Culture Program, also will participate.

“This is an incredibly important event for us,” Kia said. “It puts the University of Montana not only on the national radar, but on the international radar and makes us a center for the study of a very important region of the world, which extends from Western China all the way to North Africa.”

All events will be held in the University Center Theater and are free and open to the public. The schedule follows:

**Wednesday, March 23**


- 3:30-5 p.m.: Panel: “Western Europe and Immigration Crisis.” Panelists will each present. UM Professor Michel Valentin will deliver “De-Territorialization, Globalization and Emigration.” Thomas will deliver “Fortress Europe: Migration and Race.” UM journalism Professor Henriette Lowisch will deliver “The German Experiment: A Crumbling Welcome.” Kozul will serve as the moderator.


**Thursday, March 24**

- 10-11 a.m.: Panel: “The Golden Age of Central Asia,” presented by UM Central and Southwest Asia Program Associate Director Ardeshir Kia. UM lecturer Samir Bitar will serve as the moderator.

- 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Panel: “Struggle for Women’s Rights in Afghanistan & Iran,” presented by Shaima Khinjani, manager of academic programs, UM’s Defense Critical Language & Culture Program. UM anthropology Professor G.G. Weix will serve as the moderator.

- 12:30-2 p.m.: Panel: “Central & Southwest Asian Studies Student Panel.” Ardi Kia will serve as the moderator.

- 2-3:30 p.m.: Panel: “China and the Middle East.” Panel members include a delegation from Shanghai International Studies University: Professor Degang Sun, deputy director of the Middle East Studies Institute;
Gafar Karar Ahmed, honorary research fellow of the Middle East Studies Institute; and Jiani Wang, Middle East Studies Institute doctoral student. Bitar will serve as the moderator.

- 7-9 p.m.: Keynote Presentation: “A Senator’s Perspective on Foreign Policy,” presented by Tester.

Friday, March 25, 2016

- 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: Panel: “Foreign Language Instruction and Cultural” Panelists are from the Mansfield Center’s Defense Critical Language & Culture Program and include UM Adjunct Professor Owen Sirrs, UM Associate Professor Reza Samar, Kinjani and UM Associate Professor Abdelilah Bouasria. Retired Maj. Gen. Don Loranger, director of the Defense Critical Language and Culture Program.

- 1-3 p.m.: Panel: “Putin’s Russia and its Policies in Ukraine, the Caucasus and the Middle East.” Panelists include UM history Professor Robert Greene, UM history Professor Michael Mayer, UM visiting scholar Milena Oganesyan and Mehrdad Kia. Bob Seidenshwarz, president of the Montana World Affairs Council, will serve as the moderator.

- 7 p.m.: Keynote Presentation: “The War in Syria and the Destruction of the Syrian Antiquity,” presented by Al-Azm. Bitar will serve as the moderator. Retired UM Professor Tom Lee will be a discussant.

The conference is sponsored by the UM Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, UM’s Central & Southwest Asian Studies Center, Montana World Affairs Council, UM’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, UM’s Department of History, UM’s Department of Modern and Classical Languages, UM’s Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program and UM’s Russian Studies Program.

For more information on the Central and Southwest Asia Conference, call Kia at 406-243-2289 or email mehrdad.kia@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Mehrdad Kia, director of UM’s Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center, 406-396-1143, mehrdad.kia@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Missoula Community Theatre and the University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance have kicked off a celebration of William Shakespeare with performances of “The Complete Works of Shakespeare, Abridged” and “Romeo and Juliet.”

The performances are additional campus and community programs that were scheduled in conjunction with “First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare, on national tour from the Folger Shakespeare Library.”

The Folger Shakespeare Library, in association with the Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association, is touring the exhibition to all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico in 2016. UM was selected as the only location in Montana to feature the exhibit. The First Folio will be on display at UM May 9-31, at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture. It is cosponsored by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library and MMAC.
Performances of MCT’s “The Complete Works of Shakespeare, Abridged” will be held Friday through Sunday, March 11-13, and Wednesday through Sunday, March 15-20.

The production condenses the great works of Shakespeare into irreverent and hilarious micro-performances at breakneck speed. The cast improvises throughout the show, invoking modern pop culture and involving the audience.

The UM School of Theatre & Dance will perform “Romeo and Juliet” Wednesday through Saturday, April 27-30, and Tuesday through Saturday, May 3-7. One of the most famous love stories of all time, “Romeo and Juliet” has it all: love and hate, loyalty and betrayal, chance and fate. But no matter how familiar the plot may be, Shakespeare’s poetic tragedy is still haunting, romantic, compelling and timeless.

“We are thrilled we will be able to showcase the folio on campus in May,” said Julie Biando Edwards, an associate professor at the Mansfield Library. “The Missoula and campus communities have rallied around this opportunity to deliver engaging programs that center around Shakespeare. These two theatre performances will kick off a slate of truly fantastic programs.”

UM and its partners will offer related programming while the First Folio is on campus. A current schedule is available online at: http://www.lib.umt.edu/folio/schedule.php.

The First Folio is the first complete collected edition of William Shakespeare’s plays, published in 1623, seven years after his death. Compiled by two of Shakespeare’s fellow actors, it preserves 36 of Shakespeare’s plays. Without it, we would not have 18 previously unpublished masterpieces, including “Macbeth,” “Julius Caesar,” “Twelfth Night,” “The Tempest” and “Antony and Cleopatra.”

“We are extremely excited to partner with the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library and so many fine organizations to celebrate the extraordinary contributions Shakespeare made to mankind,” said Barbara Koostra, MMAC director. “The exhibit promises exceptional cultural opportunities for our state.”

For more information on the exhibition visit http://www.lib.umt.edu/folio/about-the-folio/default.php.

The tour is made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and by the support of Google.org, Vinton and Sigrid Cerf, the British Council and other generous donors.

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**Contact:** Julie Biando Edwards, associate professor, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, 406-243-4505, julie.edwards@umontana.edu; Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu.
UM Celebrates Research, Innovation, Imagination with Four Consecutive Conferences

March 11, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host “ix5” – four days of conferences and events that will bring together thinkers and doers from an array of fields – from Tuesday to Friday, April 12-15.

During four distinct conferences, ix5 will showcase achievements, research and stories of current and future innovators from UM and beyond. The event title, ix5, represents the themes surrounding the event: innovation, imagination, inspiration, interdisciplinary and international. All events and presentations are free and open to the public.

The ix5 event kicks off Tuesday with the Mansfield Center’s conference, Innovation and Imagination in Global Health. On Wednesday, UM’s Office of Research and Creative Scholarship will present innovateUM, a day of dialogue about issues and ideas that shape our lives and our communities. Thursday features Gradcon, formerly the Graduate Student Research Conference, and Friday concludes with the UM Conference on Undergraduate
Research.

Although each day of ix5 has a distinct theme, the week will foster conversation among researchers and innovators at all stages in their education and careers.

The Mansfield Center conference will bring together international thought and industry leaders to examine health care improvements in the developed and developing world on international, national, regional and local levels. It will feature panel discussions about how geography, technology, community, human behavior and the environment affect the health of global populations. For more information visit http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/events/global-public-health/default.php.

InnovateUM will celebrate UM thought leaders and change makers, as well as their local and national collaborators. Throughout the day, the public is invited to experience living room-style conversations with leaders such as Missoula Mayor John Engen, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes’ Chairman Vernon Finley, Montana Public Radio’s Sally Mauk and TED fellow and neuroscientist Greg Gage; a talk-show format discussion with UM faculty trailblazers; performances; poetry; a live cooking show; and a tech expo where visitors can fly a drone, print a 3-D object, and meet UM and Montana tech entrepreneurs.

The full innovateUM agenda is available online at http://www.umt.edu/sell/cps/i5/innovateUM.php.

The final two days of ix5 focus on undergraduate and graduate student research. Gradcon, held in the UC ballroom on Thursday, will spotlight graduate research from all disciplines and will include GradExpo, an event showcasing UM's array of graduate degree programs. The week wraps up with UMCUR, hosted by the Davidson Honors College, on April 15. This daylong conference offers opportunities for UM students of all majors to present their research and creative scholarship through oral presentations, posters, performances and exhibits. More information on GradCon and UMCUR can be found online at http://www.umt.edu/sell/cps/gradcon/default.php and http://www.umt.edu/ugresearch/umcur/default.php.

To learn more about participating in ix5 week, call Michelle Quinn, director of Conference Planning Services with the School of Extended & Lifelong Learning, at 406-243-4866 or email michelle.quinn@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Michelle Quinn, director, Conference Planning Services, UM School of Extended & Lifelong Learning, 406-243-4866, michelle.quinn@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Great College Deals recently ranked University of Montana’s Native American studies among the top 20 best-deal colleges in the nation.

The organization ranked UM 18th, which was published in a full report on its website in January.

The 20 best deals on colleges for Native American studies were selected and ranked based on total number of points. Points were assigned based on the following criteria: presence of a well-rounded Native American studies curriculum, field-related internships, scholarship options and any additional special features that add value to this degree. Featured colleges scored the highest among institutions with a net price of $30,000 or less, data that was drawn from the National Center for Education Statistics' College Navigator database.

“Language and cultural studies are essential to a 21st century education,” said Ted Van Alst, UM Native American Studies co-chair. “At UM, we are proud of our strength and tradition in these essential academic arenas and excited to be ranked among the best college deals for Native American studies.”
UM offers both a major and minor in Native American Studies, and students on this track receive a liberal arts education focused on past and present issues facing American Indians. The curriculum is designed to provide a study of American Indians from a holistic and humanistic viewpoint by focusing upon their cultures, history and contemporary life. For more information on the program, visit [http://hs.umt.edu/nas/default.php](http://hs.umt.edu/nas/default.php).

Founded in 1893, the UM is a public research university and the flagship campus of the four-campus University of Montana system. UM is located in Missoula, Montana’s second-largest city. With more than 13,000 students, UM is a national leader in science, health, business, the environment and the creative arts.

Great College Deals is a free online resource guide for finding up-to-date advice on affording a high-quality college education. The site’s mission is to provide other prospective college students with information about top-ranked universities offering accredited degrees at competitive tuition rates. Along with featuring the best college deals, the site includes comprehensive lists of scholarships and grants, infographics, featured articles and frequently asked questions concerned with affording a college education.

Read the full article online at [http://www.greatcollegedeals.net/rankings/best-deals-colleges-native-american-studies/](http://www.greatcollegedeals.net/rankings/best-deals-colleges-native-american-studies/).

Contact: Ted Van Alst, UM Native American Studies co-chair, 406-243-5835, theodore.vanalst@umontana.edu.
UM Communication Studies Students Win Top Regional Research Award

March 10, 2016

MISSOULA, Montana – Four undergraduate students in the University of Montana Department of Communication Studies won the top paper award at the Western States Communication Association’s annual Undergraduate Scholar’s Research Conference on Feb. 27 in San Diego.

Tyler Morgan, Mackensie Salitsky, Katjana Stutzer and J.R. (John R.) Thomas received the award for their study titled “When More Information Does Not Help: The Connection Between Facebook Monitoring Behavior, Relationship Uncertainty and Relationship Quality.” The study was conducted as part of
UM communications Professor Steve Yoshimura’s fall 2015 course in Communication Research Methods.

The study, approved by the Institutional Review Board, used a nationally distributed online survey to examine the extent to which people’s self-reported relationship satisfaction and confidence correlate with the use of Facebook to monitor their romantic partner’s social network interactions.

Tyler Morgan is from Missoula; Mackensie Salitsky is from Wayland, Massachusetts; Katjana Stutzer is from Anchorage, Alaska; and J.R. Thomas is from Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

WSCA conventions have been held annually since the initial conference of 1929 in San Francisco. Each year the WSCA convention brings together nearly 750 students, faculty and practitioners to present research papers, short courses, debates, discussions and more. During the conference, the WSCA recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of communication.

To learn more about the WSCA, visit the website at http://www.westcomm.org/.

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Contact: Betsy Wackernagel Bach, UM Department of Communication Studies professor, 406-243-6119, betsy.bach@umontana.edu.
UM Communication Studies Students Win Top Regional Research Award - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s spectrUM Discovery Area and We Are Montana in the Classroom will travel to Ronan on Thursday, March 17.

SpectrUM’s “Best of Show” exhibit, a collection of its most popular traveling exhibits, will transform the Events Center at Ronan Middle School into a powerful science learning center by featuring hands-on activities exploring neuroscience, health, nanotechnology, physics and engineering. SpectrUM educators also will visit K. William Harvey Elementary School’s third grade classes in the afternoon with “Explore Science Kits,” which show students the wonders of nanoscience.

Students will be able to share the “Best of Show” exhibition and activities with families, friends and community members at a free Family Science Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at Ronan Middle School’s Events Center.

Also on March 17, UM’s We Are Montana in the Classroom role models Seth Barnes-Smith and Jim Sears will visit K-12 classrooms in Ronan to lead activities, serve as higher education and career role models and share UM’s
research and educational opportunities. Both tour stops are powered by Ronan PTA, K. William Harvey Elementary School and the UM Broader Impacts Group.

SpectrUM is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula, committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all and serving more than 50,000 Montanans annually through its in-museum and mobile programs.

Since 2006, spectrUM has brought interactive exhibits and educators to 73 schools and three public libraries in 30 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations in the state. SpectrUM's mobile science program has served over 52,000 people, of whom 30 percent are Native American and over 75 percent live in rural communities.

SpectrUM Director Holly Truitt said the goal of spectrUM's mobile outreach is to “help inspire Montana’s next generation of scientists, health care providers, engineers and visionaries.”

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.

Both spectrUM and We Are Montana in the Classroom are part of 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. Public hours are 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.

To book a school visit with spectrUM or learn more about We Are Montana in the Classroom’s free programming, call STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-243-4828 or visit http://www.spectrum.umt.edu.

Contact: Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu; Carey Swanberg, dean of students, K. William Harvey Elementary School, carey.swanberg@ronank12.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana faculty members and graduate students from an array of academic disciplines will share their research on the most complex organ in the human body during Brain Awareness Week, March 15-17 and March 23-24. The distance-learning festival, which is organized by UM's We Are Montana in the Classroom, will connect over 750 K-12 learners with UM researchers, who will lead hands-on and minds-on activities in the study of the brain.

The interactive distance-learning sessions include:

- “Brains and Robots” with Rachel Severson, UM assistant professor of development psychology, who will share with students the robot that she uses to study how children think about technology as having thoughts, emotions and the capacity for friendship. This session is for elementary students.
  - 1-1:50 p.m. Wednesday, March 16
Montana K-12 Students to Engage with UM Researchers During Brain Awareness Week - UM News - University Of Montana

2-2:50 p.m. Wednesday, March 16
  • 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, March 23

- “Sounds, Science and Brains” with Catherine Off, assistant professor in UM’s Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders and director of UM’s Big Sky Aphasia Program, who will engage students in understanding how our brains use language and sound to create meaning. This session is for middle school students.
  • 9-9:50 a.m. Tuesday, March 15
  • 10-10:50 a.m. Tuesday, March 15
  • 1-2 p.m. Thursday, March 24

- “Football and Brains: the Science of Concussions” with Sarj Patel, assistant research professor in UM’s College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, who will share his National Football League and General Electric-funded research on the diagnosis and treatment of mild traumatic brain injury. This session is for high school students.
  • 9:15-10:05 a.m. Thursday, March 17
  • 10:15-11:05 a.m. Thursday, March 17
  • 10:15-11:05 a.m. Thursday, March 24

- “Dinosaur Brains” with UM Paleontology Center Curator Kallie Moore, who will share dinosaur artifacts from UM’s collections and discuss with students how the T-Rex brain is helping scientists in their research today. This session is for high school students.
  • 9:15-10:05 a.m. Wednesday, March 16
  • 10:15-11:05 a.m. Wednesday, March 16
  • 10:15-11:05 a.m. Wednesday, March 23


Throughout the distance-learning festival, all participating classes also will receive video links to daily brain games led by Amanda Duley, BrainLab manager at UM’s spectrUM Discovery Area.

K-12 students and their families in the Missoula area also can meet UM brain researchers in person for guided activities and demonstrations at the UM spectrUM Discovery Area. Admission to spectrUM will be free during the following hours:

- **3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16:** Rachel Severson, UM Department of Psychology.
- **3:30-4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17:** Kallie Moore, UM Paleontology Center, and Mike Kavanaugh, Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience.
- **3:30-4:30 p.m. Friday, March 18:** Maggie Colstad, UM Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, and Jenny Lind, Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience.

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.

Brain Awareness Week is supported by the UM Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience and the Big Sky Brain Project and is produced in partnership with Inspired Classroom, a Missoula-based educational technology company.

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

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 but will be free during select Brain Awareness Week hours listed above.

Contact: Nathalie Wolfram, program manager, We Are Montana in the Classroom, 406-243-4828, nathalie.wolfram@umontana.edu.
‘Stuttering Comedian’ Nina G Will Present One-Woman Show, Workshop at UM March 21

March 09, 2016

MISSOULA – Nina G, who bills herself as “The West Coast's Only Female Stuttering Comedian,” will bring her one-woman show to the University of Montana this month.

The comedian, social activist and author, who also has a learning disability, will present “Going Beyond Inspirational” at 7 p.m. Monday, March 21, in the University Center Theater. The performance, sponsored by the Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities at UM, is free and open to the public. It may contain mature content not suitable for some audiences.

Nina G also will present a workshop earlier that day on how to create a diverse work environment for all people, including individuals with disabilities. Sponsored by UM's Access Partners, it will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in UC Rooms 326-327. It is open to all UM faculty, staff and students, and registration is available online at

http://news.umt.edu/2016/03/0916nina.php
Nina G’s one-woman show is based on her real-life experiences. In a world where people with disabilities often are portrayed solely as being “inspirational,” or are otherwise presented through the filter of perceptions of people without disabilities, “Going Beyond Inspirational” is carefully crafted to validate the disability experience for people with and without disabilities.

“There is an ongoing struggle of tending to be preachy but wanting to be funny at the same time,” she said. “I think that’s a balance that I really need to have. For the topic of disability, it’s especially important to use humor as a tool to open up dialogue, because people’s defenses are so high.”

Nina G will present for 30 minutes, and then she will be joined by Mike Beers of Summit Independent Living Center in Missoula for a 30-minute panel discussion. The event will close with a 30-minute audience Q-and-A session.

The Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities at UM engages in research, provides education and interdisciplinary training, and develops model services that improve the skills, abilities and quality of life for people with disabilities in rural communities, including their families and those who support and partner with them. More information is online at http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/.

Access Partners is an alliance for UM faculty, staff and students to promote a campus environment that goes above and beyond disability compliance. The alliance’s goal is to promote a diverse campus community that welcomes all individuals by creating a more positive and innovative UM experience for all people. For more information visit http://www.umt.edu/accessibility/accesspartners.php.

Contact: Stacey Bliss, data and outreach coordinator, UM Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities, 406-243-5760, stacey.bliss@mso.umt.edu; Mika Watanabe, coordinator, UM Disability Services for Students, 406-243-6535, mikawt@mso.umt.edu.
‘Stuttering Comedian’ Nina G Will Present One-Woman Show, Workshop at UM March 21 - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – The Montana Law Review will hold its 76th Annual Browning Distinguished Lecture in Law at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17, in Room 101 of the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana. A reception will follow in the Law School Atrium.

The 2016 lecture will feature Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Kozinski will deliver a talk titled “In the Court Where I Live.” The event is free and open to the public and offers one ethics continuing legal education credit.

Kozinski has served on the Ninth Circuit since 1985, and was Chief Judge from 2007 to 2014.

Each spring since 2002, the Browning Lecture has brought distinguished lawyers, scholars and judges from across the country to the School of Law. As its name indicates, the lecture honors the Honorable James Browning, who passed away in May 2012. Judge Browning was born in Belt and graduated from the UM School of Law in 1941. He served as a member of the inaugural editorial board for the Montana Law Review and in later years served as its editor-in-chief. Eventually he clerked on the United States Supreme Court.
In 1962, President John F. Kennedy appointed Judge Browning to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. He served for more than 50 years on the Ninth Circuit and as Chief Judge from 1976 to 1988, where he became known for his leadership and modernization of the Ninth Circuit.

For more information call Montana Law Review Editor-in-Chief Lars Philips at 406-243-2023 or email lars.phillips@umconnect.umt.edu.

MISSOULA – About 600 high school and middle school students from across the state will present their research findings during the 61st annual Montana Science Fair on Monday and Tuesday, March 21-22, at the University of Montana Adams Center.

Registration and exhibit setup will take place from 8 a.m. to noon Monday, and student projects will be judged from 1 and 4:30 p.m. Exhibits will be open for public viewing from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday and from 8 to 9 a.m. Tuesday. The awards ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. Tuesday in UM's Dennison Theatre.

More than $15,000 in prizes will be awarded to student participants, including cash awards, scholarships and all-expenses-paid trips. The grand award winners from the Montana Science Fair and Montana's regional fairs will go on to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair May 8-13 in Phoenix. Montana's delegates for the National Youth Science Camp, a monthlong science education program that honors two high school seniors from each state, also will be announced.

UM, the College of Humanities and Sciences, and the President's Office, as well as a variety of campus, community
and individuals, sponsor the Montana Science Fair. More than 250 judges, including UM staff, students, faculty and community professionals, also volunteer their time from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to judge the exhibits.

For more information visit http://hs.umt.edu/mtsciencefair/default.php or contact Science Fair Director Earle Adams (406-243-4196, earle.adams@mso.umt.edu) or Assistant Director Desirae Ware (406-243-4725, desirae.ware@mso.umt.edu).

Contact: Earle Adams, director, Montana Science Fair, 406-243-4196, earle.adams@mso.umt.edu; Desirae Ware, assistant director, Montana Science Fair, 406-243-4725, desirae.ware@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Montana Girls STEM Collaborative Project, a statewide initiative encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math, recently launched a mini-grants program to support collaboration, address gaps and overlaps in service, and share exemplary practices.

Teachers, community groups and other organizations committed to collaborating, informing and motivating girls are encouraged to apply by March 31.

The grants offer a small amount of seed funding and are not intended to fully fund entire projects. Projects for consideration may include everything from a one-day event with a single classroom to an extended project or a longer-duration summer camp that’s put on by a youth organization partnering with a professional association, corporation or college.

Organizations may apply for funding up to $750 and must have at least one partner. Organizations must complete Role Models Matter Training. Both partners must be listed in The Connectory, which is free and accessible at http://theconnectory.org/provider-portal.
To learn more about the mini-grant program, visit [http://www.ngcproject.org/node/9459/grants/](http://www.ngcproject.org/node/9459/grants/). The online application system opened Feb. 29.

The MGSCP mini-grants program is sponsored by Techbridge, with support from Northrop Grumman and the Montana National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

For more information email spectrUM Discovery Area Program Manager Jessie Herbert at jessie.herbert@mso.umt.edu or call 406-243-4828.

**Contact**: Jessie Herbert, spectrUM Discovery Area program manager, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@mso.umt.edu.
UM Alumni and Legendary Journalist Makes Seven-Figure Estate Gift

March 08, 2016

MISSOULA – Legendary newspaperwoman and University of Montana alumna Dorothy Rochon Powers broke glass ceilings throughout the course of her storied career.

Always leading the way, she served as an inspiration to countless journalists through her dogged nature and fearless and compassionate reporting.

“Dorothy was a pioneer in journalism, demonstrating the power of telling stories about everyday heroes, and inspiring many women in the newsroom and in other careers,” said Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications and former dean of the UM School of Journalism. Kuhr worked with Powers at The Spokesman-Review.

Even after her passing in 2014, Powers inspires others to make a difference. She and her husband, Elwood, made a provision in their will to support incoming UM students.

Their estate gift of $1.1 million has created the Elwood and Dorothy Rochon Powers Scholarship, which will be awarded to graduates of Montana high schools who show financial need and academic merit. Their gift has created an endowed fund that will provide for the scholarship in perpetuity. Another $260,000 will support general University scholarships.

“Dorothy was grateful for her journalism education,” said UM Professor Emeritus Carol Van Valkenburg, “but she wished to provide support that would allow all kinds of students to benefit, as she did, from the great education offered at UM.”

The impact of her generosity will be substantial, as scholarships are a key recruitment tool for the University, and financial assistance enables many students to go to college who otherwise couldn’t afford to attend.

Powers, who grew up in Anaconda, Montana, studied journalism at UM in the early 1940s, when few women entered the profession. In interviews years later, she told how a school administrator even warned the female students away.
“He told us we were entering a man’s field, and that we had no business in it. He said there was no way we’d be anything but society editors.”

The admonition merely fired up Powers. She not only stayed in the college, she became a news editor at the Kaimin, UM’s student newspaper. Upon graduation in 1943, she immediately got a reporting job at The Spokesman-Review.

Like women across the country, she filled a position vacated by a man who had gone off to war. She covered everything from the courts to the stockyards, averaging an astonishing 13 articles a day.

In a letter dated Jan. 24, 1944, she wrote, “I am so happy with this job I practically sing all day long. As far as I’m concerned, there just is no equal to journalism as a profession.”

When the war ended, she didn’t head home – she stayed at the newspaper and went on to have a 40-year career that made her a beloved and celebrated local figure.

“I think Dorothy will probably be remembered as one of the legendary figures of Northwest journalism,” said former Spokesman-Review editorial board member Steve Witter in an article published after Powers’ death. “She was an investigative reporter well before the term was invented.”

She specialized in stories that exposed the plight of people such as the mentally ill, homeless or incarcerated. Her reporting was highly principled, and she was a natural leader in the newsroom and in the community.

She often credited her parents for instilling a love of literature and writing. Her father had written dispatches from the Philippines and Cuba during the Spanish-American War, and he and Powers’ mother, a teacher, ensured that she and her brother never lacked for reading material.

She honored her father, who raised her after her mother died, with her first substantial gift to UM. In 1959, she donated the $1,000 prize from her Ernie Pyle Award to the University to establish the C.G. Rochon Scholarship, which supports Anaconda High School students who want to study journalism. That scholarship is still awarded to
this day. This year’s recipient, Lacee Moodry, is a freshman from Anaconda.

Later, she pledged funds to name a room after her father in Don Anderson Hall, the new School of Journalism building completed in 2007.

She said of that gift, “I consider it the most important achievement of my lifetime.”

**Contact:** Kate Stober, UM Foundation senior writer/editor, 406-243-2627, kate.stober@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Office for Integrated Communications and the UM Foundation marketing team collectively raked in seven awards from two recent national competitions.

Cumulatively, the two marketing offices won four awards from the 2015 Education Digital Marketing Awards, which recognize the best educational websites, digital content, electronic communications, mobile media and social media.


UM and UMF also received three honors from the 31st annual Educational Advertising Awards, the largest...
educational advertising awards competition in the country.


MISSOULA – The University of Montana Percussion Ensemble and Islanders Steel Drum Band will present their spring concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 11, in the Dennison Theatre at UM.

The concert, titled “Art Rock of the ’70s & ’80s,” will feature performances of Emerson, Lake and Palmer’s “Tarkus” and Kit Watkins’ “Labyrinth,” among other pieces. It also will include a performance of the classic “William Tell Overture” by the UM Islanders Steel Drum Band.

Tickets are $11 for general admission, $6 for seniors and $5 for students. They can be purchased online at http://www.ummusic.org or by calling the UMArts Box Office at 406-243-4581. Concert proceeds will support a study abroad trip to Bali, Indonesia, this summer. A group of UM music students will spend three weeks living in a village in central Bali, where they will study gamelan music while immersing themselves in Balinese culture.

For more information call percussion studies Director Robert LedBetter at 406-243-4819 or email robert.ledbetter@umontana.edu.
Contact: Robert LedBetter, director of percussion studies, UM School of Music, 406-243-4819, robert.ledbetter@umontana.edu.
UM To Award Two Honorary Doctorates

March 04, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will award honorary doctorates to Academy Award-winning actor J.K. Simmons and former U.S. Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas during its May 14 Commencement exercises.

On March 4, the state Board of Regents approved the plan to present Thomas with an Honorary Doctorate of Science and Simmons with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. In addition to receiving the doctorate, Simmons will serve as Commencement speaker for the 2016 graduating class.

"It’s our honor to reward two such remarkable individuals," UM President Royce Engstrom said. “Both have risen to rarified heights in their respective careers, and both have contributed a great deal to the University of Montana."

The family of Jonathan Kimble (J.K.) Simmons has many ties to UM and Missoula. His father, Don, was a UM music professor and music department chair for years, and his mother, Pat, was active with many community organizations. J.K. graduated from UM in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, and during his college days appeared in productions of the Missoula Children’s Theatre and Bigfork Summer Playhouse.

Simmons began his professional acting career with several professional theatres in Seattle, and then in 1991 launched a career on Broadway with roles in "Peter Pan," “Guys and Dolls” and “Das Barbecu.” His television

In 2015, he won dozens of awards for his intense performance as Terence Fletcher in “Whiplash,” including an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor and a Golden Globe Award.

In his commercial work, Simmons is the face of Farmers Insurance and the voice of the yellow M&M.

UM’s College of Visual and Performing Arts honored Simmons for his lifetime of achievements during the 2002 “Odyssey of the Stars” gala. In 2011, he received a Distinguished Alumni Award and interacted with UM students. He has been a staunch supporter of “Odyssey of the Stars,” and he and his siblings recently endowed a generous music scholarship in memory of their family.

Simmons’ honorary doctorate nomination was supported by letters from Hollywood luminaries such as director Sam Rami, Emmy-winner and UM alum John Shaffner, actor Bill Fagerbakke, director Damien Chazelle, director Jason Reitman and producer Tom Fontana.

Jack Ward Thomas earned his forestry doctorate from the University of Massachusetts before starting a lengthy career as a research wildlife biologist. He rose through the ranks of the U.S. Forest Service in West Virginia, Massachusetts and Oregon, where he became one of only two research scientists to attain grade 17 in the agency’s history.

During his time with the Forest Service, Thomas dealt with some of the most difficult issues faced by wildlife biologists, including landscape-scale conservation in the Pacific Northwest and the spotted owl. In 1993, he was named Forest Service chief by President Bill Clinton.

K. Norman Johnson, a University Distinguished Professor at Oregon State University, wrote in his nomination letter: “Rarely has a scientist risen to such high levels of policymaking. Rarely has a scientist been so completely trusted by a president.”

Thomas went to serve as the endowed Boone and Crocket Professor of Wildlife Conservation at UM from 1996 to 2005. He mentored graduate students and mesmerized students in his undergraduate classes with the real story of how conservation happened in North America from the perspective of someone who was there for many of the issues of the last half of the 20th century.

During his lengthy career, Thomas produced about 600 publications, including “The Elk on North America – Ecology and Management,” “Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests – the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington” and “A Conservation Strategy for the Northern Spotted Owl.” His many honors include the Aldo Leopold Award from The Wildlife Society, and he is involved with many professional societies and wildlife organizations.

Thomas is now retired and writing books from his home in Florence.

Contact: Peggy Kuhr, UM vice president for integrated communications, 406-243-2311, peggy.kuhr@umontana.edu.
300 High School Students Headed to UM as Part of Health Science State Conference

March 04, 2016

MISSOULA – Missoula will host the 12th annual Montana HOSA: Future Health Professionals State Leadership Conference, on Monday and Tuesday, March 21-22, at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown.

This year’s conference theme is “Big Sky Big Dreams,” and more than 300 Montana high school students will compete in 30 health-science-skills events to qualify for the International HOSA Leadership Conference that will be hosted in June in Nashville, Tennessee.

Montana HOSA: Future Health Professionals prepares students for college and the workforce by providing them real world application of academic subjects, giving students leadership and career opportunities and getting students involved in their communities through service work. It is one of seven Montana career and technical student organizations partially funded through Montana House Bill 86.
Montana HOSA’s mission is especially critical when considering the acute shortage of qualified workers for Montana’s health care industry. High school membership in Montana HOSA surpassed 500 this year, and 94 percent of Montana HOSA high school seniors who graduated in 2015 enrolled in postsecondary education.

The University of Montana, Missoula College UM and local health professionals will judge 30 competitive events with topics that range from biomedical debate to sports medicine. Online test scores are averaged with skill performance to determine medal winners.

Jane Baker, a Wise River resident and former interim dean of Missoula College, will deliver the conference keynote address. The first day of conference will feature a vendor expo and four on-site symposia: resistance training led by Mark Puddy of the Missoula Police Department, pig heart dissections led by medical residents of the Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana, Health Literacy “Project Share” led by Ronan HOSA students, and leadership games led by HOSA state officers.

Following morning competitive events on Tuesday, March 22, students will travel to UM’s campus, where they will break into teams of 15 and attend several of the 60 symposia being hosted by faculty, staff and students of UM’s Health and Medicine initiative. Symposia topics will include biomedical engineering, diversity awareness, neurology, nursing, respiratory therapy, health and human performance, biochemistry, speech pathology, physical therapy biomechanics, psychology, health informatics, pharmacy, athletic training, laboratory technology, social work, surgical technology and forensics.

Funding for the annual conference is provided through organization affiliation and support from the Montana State Fund, NorthWestern Energy, Kalispell Regional Healthcare, Bozeman Health, The Goodman Group, Missoula Bone & Joint, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana, ALPS, The Student Assistance Foundation, Community Medical Center, Western Montana Clinic and the UM Office of the President Excellence Fund.

For more information call Martha Robertson, Montana HOSA director, at 406-243-4746 or email martha.robertson@mso.umt.edu.

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MISSOULA – The Mansfield Center at the University of Montana will send six professionals from Montana to Laos next week as citizen ambassadors in a sports diplomacy program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

Funded by the SportsUnited Division of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, this Mansfield Center project uses sports as a medium for supporting underserved populations in Laos, including ethnic minorities and youth with disabilities. The following six professionals were selected to comprise the team traveling to Laos based on their expertise in the fields of traditional games, adaptive sports and youth facilitation:

- **LeAnn Dolly-Powell**, vice president of unified strategy, Special Olympics Montana;
- **James Laskin**, UM associate professor of physical therapy and director of UM’s Applied Exercise Physiology.
UM’s Mansfield Center Sends Six Montanans to Laos for Sports Diplomacy Exchange - UM News - University Of Montana

- Samantha McLeod, youth mentor, Special Olympics International;
- Paul Phillips, Native games specialist, Salish Kootenai College;
- Sherene Ricci, specialty instructor, Missoula City Department of Parks and Recreation;
- Brett Taylor, outdoor recreation specialist, Missoula City Department of Parks and Recreation.

During the two-week trip to Laos March 12-26, the American delegation will work with local youth workers, sports professionals, K-12 schools and ethnic minority communities to promote positive youth development through sports. The program will focus on team-building and inclusive activities that promote collaboration, community engagement and healthy lifestyles for youth at the grassroots level. The program also will focus on building environmental awareness by addressing issues such as clean water and conservation in schools and communities. The team aims to extract valuable environmental lessons out of culturally informed games and healthy living demonstrations while also supplying necessary equipment for practicing healthy water consumption and waste reduction.

“Sports diplomacy has emerged as an integral part of efforts to build relations between the U.S. and other nations,” said Mansfield Center Program Manager Melissa Wardlow, who will accompany the group. “This type of diplomacy employs a universal passion for sport and play to transcend linguistic and sociocultural differences, establishing lasting connections through activities that promote leadership, teamwork and healthy communication. The Mansfield Center is honored to be part of such international diplomacy efforts.”

The exchange is an opportunity for the American team to promote positive cross-cultural relationships with their Laotian counterparts, building lasting connections that will continue during an exchange visit by a team of eight Laotian participants to Montana in October.

“I appreciate the tremendous potential for mutual understanding and information exchange between our two countries,” Taylor said. “This program is particularly valuable given the potential for ongoing cooperation between our two countries.”

The SportsUnited Division of the U.S. Department of State emerged to support sports diplomacy’s ability to increase dialogue and cultural understanding among people from around the world. Supported programs expose foreign participants to American culture while providing them with opportunities to establish lasting connections and partnerships with their U.S. peers. In turn, Americans learn about foreign cultures and the challenges young people from other countries face today. Since its inception, SportsUnited has involved thousands of people from more than 100 countries in similar sports exchanges. The Mansfield Center is honored to be the sole recipient of SportsUnited grants in Montana.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at UM promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs, in the spirit of late Montana Sen. Mike Mansfield and his wife, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. The center supports programs that focus on the people and cultures of modern Asia and ethics in public affairs – the core interests and hallmark issues of Mansfield’s career.

For more information on this SportsUnited exchange or to request interviews with participants, call Deena Mansour,

Contact: Deena Mansour, associate director, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2713, deena.mansour@mso.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 Lewistown and Havre March 15-16.

“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.

The seminar runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, in Lewistown’s Central Montana Education Center. The Havre seminar will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, in the Hensler Auditorium at Montana State University-Northern.

“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 who attend. Doug Young, MSU professor emeritus of economics, will present the keynote, "Rising Property Taxes – What You Should Know."

In addition to 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/.

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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UM Ranks No. 10 for Producing Peace Corps Volunteers

March 01, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana has been named the No. 10 medium-sized university for producing Peace Corps volunteers. Currently, 24 UM alumni serve with the Peace Corps worldwide.

This year also marks the 12th time the University has placed in the top 25 on the medium-sized volunteer-producing colleges and universities list. UM is tied with the College of William and Mary for the No. 10 spot.

“It’s an exciting time of year when Peace Corps releases the Top College rankings,” said Sarah Kassel, Peace Corps recruitment supervisor. “We are delighted to recognize the University of Montana as one of the top volunteer-producing schools in the West, graduating dedicated individuals who exemplify the Peace Corps mission of promoting world peace and friendship.”

Alumni from more than 3,000 colleges and universities nationwide have served in the Peace Corps since the agency’s founding in 1961, including 847 from UM. In 2015, Montana ranked No. 3 among states with the highest number of Peace Corps volunteers per capita, with 4.5 volunteers per 100,000 residents.
UM was the first public university in the country to partner with the Peace Corps to offer the Peace Corps Preparatory Program. Any UM student can earn a Peace Corps Preparatory Certificate by participating in the international development studies minor in UM’s College of Humanities and Sciences. UM also offers two master’s International Programs: a Master of Science in international conservation and development and a Master of Art in global youth development, which allows students to earn their graduate degrees while serving in the Peace Corps.

Service in the Peace Corps is a life-defining, hands-on leadership experience that offers volunteers the opportunity to travel to the farthest corners of the world and make lasting differences in the lives of others. Peace Corps volunteers live and work at the community level and promote a better understanding between Americans and the people they serve, while at the same time becoming global citizens.

“The Peace Corps is a unique opportunity for college graduates to put their education into practice and become agents of change in communities around the world,” Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet said. “Today’s graduates understand the importance of intercultural understanding and are raising their hands in record numbers to take on the challenge of international service.”

For more information call UM Peace Corps campus representative Peter McDonough at 406-243-2839 or email peacecorps@umontana.edu. Those interested in volunteering with the Peace Corps are encouraged to stop by UM’s Peace Corps office, which is located in the Office of Career Services in Lommasson Center Room 154.

Contact: Peter McDonough, UM Peace Corps campus representative, 406-243-2839, peacecorps@umontana.edu.
UM Ranks No. 10 for Producing Peace Corps Volunteers - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Graduate Students Present Thesis Exhibition

March 01, 2016

MISSOULA – Thesis exhibitions by University of Montana Master of Fine Arts graduate students Tressa Jones, Kate Lund and Aja Mujinga Sherrard will be displayed March 10-24 in UM's Gallery of Visual Arts.

An opening reception for the exhibits will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10, in
the same space. The event and exhibitions are free and open to the public. The gallery is located on the first floor of UM’s Social Science Building.

Jones' exhibit of printed and sculptural works, “cold lapse,” offers an awareness of the present moment and passing time reinforced by human gestures. Jones notes her personal experiences with loss and witnessing family members’ illnesses as a source of her interest in the human body, family connections and well-being. Expressing this in a minimal but tactile way, “cold lapse” offers an environment of quietude and contemplation through two-dimensional works, created with various printmaking processes and sculpture.

The intricate graphite drawings and large-scale sculptures in Lund’s exhibition, “build-up,” examine her relationship to the natural environment. As a wildland firefighter in the West for the past seven summers, her art was influenced by turmoil and struggle amidst the beauty found in nature. This can be seen in the reconfiguration and distressing of outdoor materials such as tents, wire fencing and flannel fabrics, exhibited in relation to her exquisitely rendered drawings.

In the wake of two deaths, conceptual artist Sherrard has given form to the multiple faces of loss in her exhibition “is repair.” Installations of various media articulate the problem of inheritances that have been rendered meaningless by difference and distance, and the crisis of being left behind with unresolved wounds. The artist also will perform daily in the gallery, further emphasizing the quiet gestures of healing, repair and surprising generosity characterized with grieving.

For more information call gallery Director Cathryn Mallory at 406-243-2813 or email gallery.visarts@umontana.edu. Information about UM’s Gallery of Visual Arts is available at http://www.umt.edu/art/.

Contact: Cathryn Mallory, director, UM Gallery of Visual Arts, 406-243-2813, gallery.visarts@umontana.edu.