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July 2016 news releases

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A to Z



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UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#)

July 2016 News

- 07/26/2016** - [UM Grad Student Builds New Type of Molecule](#) - Casey Massena
- 07/26/2016** - [UM Flathead Lake Biological Station to Host Open House](#) - UM Flathead Lake Biological Station
- 07/21/2016** - [University of Montana Research Unveils New Player in Lichen Symbiosis](#) - Toby Spribille
- 07/21/2016** - [Contemporary Art by Andy Warhol, Yayoi Kusama on Display at UM](#) - Jeremy Canwell
- 07/20/2016** - [UM Restaurant Iron Griz Wins Grand Prize in National Dining Awards](#) - Sam Belanger
- 07/19/2016** - [UM Homecoming Parade Applications Now Available Online](#) -
- 07/18/2016** - [Tickets on Sale July 22 for Common Kings October Concert at UM](#) - Chanelle Paakkonen
- 07/15/2016** - [UM Launches Welcome Week for New Students, Invites Public to Help Students Move In](#) - Melissa Neidigh
- 07/14/2016** - [Public Invited to Share Testimonials About 'Backroads of Montana'](#) - William Marcus
- 07/13/2016** - [UM Names Four Recipients of Distinguished Alumni Award](#) - Jodi Moreau
- 07/13/2016** - [SpectrUM's July Free Day to Celebrate Building with Biology](#) - Amanda Duley

07/11/2016 - [UM to Launch Statewide Adaptive Bike, Recreation Initiative](#) - Mindy Renfro

07/08/2016 - [Public Invited to Observe Osprey Chicks Up Close](#) - Dalit Guscio

07/06/2016 - [UM Hires Director of Communications for the Office of the President](#) - Royce C. Engstrom

07/01/2016 - [UM Hosts International Conservationists for Seminar](#) - Natalie Dawson



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[News Archive](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[University Relations](#)



A to Z

my.umt.edu

UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / [UM Grad Student Builds New Type of Molecule](#)

UM Grad Student Builds New Type of Molecule

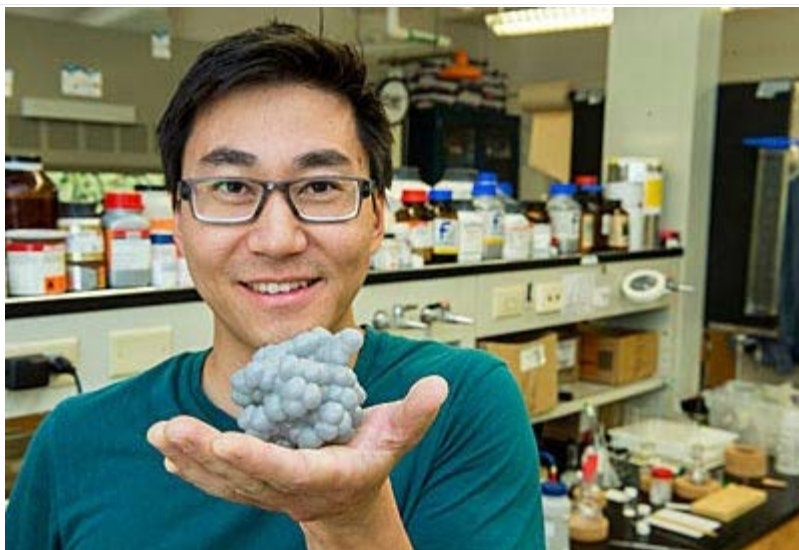
July 26, 2016

MISSOULA – A chemistry doctoral student at the University of Montana recently helped develop a new type of molecule, and his work was the cover story for a top scientific journal.

Casey Massena of Santa Cruz, California, works in the UM lab of Assistant Professor Orion Berryman. Massena's work was published in *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, which has a global readership.

The article is online at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/anie.201605440/full>.

"I like building molecules because it's a long and challenging process with exciting moments of inspiration," Massena said. "Many of us in our lab have gone to bed thinking about molecules and woken up realizing we'd dreamt about them. As one of our collaborators in Germany describes it, what we do is the perfect balance



between logic and art.”

Coil springs and handrails on spiral staircases are examples of helices. At the nanoscale, helical molecules are vital building blocks that give our bodies form and function – used to build important things like DNA or collagen.

Although nature has fashioned molecular helices for billions of years, chemists only have made synthetic versions within the past few decades. In particular, multi-strand anion helices, which involve multiple strands that wrap around negatively charged ions, are extremely rare. Using halogen bonding – electrostatic interactions that don’t involve the permanent sharing of electrons – Massena and co-workers became the first to wrap three separate strands around iodide, which is added to salt.

“This project is a small but important step toward one day developing large and dynamic molecular machines with the potential to treat diseases, serve as efficient electronic components or endow materials with rare properties,” Massena said.

“We feel very honored and excited about our contribution and the feedback we’ve received from the international community,” Berryman said. “Our Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UM is doing top-notch science.”

###

Photo: Casey Massena, a University of Montana doctoral candidate, holds a model of his new molecule produced by a 3-D printer. Orion Berryman’s lab is developing 3-D printing for education and outreach purposes. (UM photo by Todd Goodrich)

Contact: Casey Massena, UM doctoral candidate, 406-241-8318, ; Orion Berryman, UM assistant professor of chemistry, 406-243-6805, orion.berryman@umontana.edu.

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[Events Calendar](#)

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A to Z

my.umt.edu

UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / [UM Flathead Lake Biological Station to Host Open House](#)

UM Flathead Lake Biological Station to Host Open House

July 26, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station will showcase raptors, mussel detection dogs and a big, lovable grizzly bear during its free open house from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3.

The biological station is located 17.5 miles north of Polson and 14 miles south of Bigfork along Highway 35 on the east shore of Flathead Lake.

The public is invited to explore the station while learning about its research and education programs. This year’s open house features boat trips and displays about FLBS science, particularly Flathead Lake and its watershed. Displays include stream, pond and lake

creatures; animal hides and skulls; and aquatic invasive species. There also will be an opportunity to meet and talk with FLBS researchers about their work.



Additionally, UM mascot Monte will entertain participants with his acrobatics and unpredictable antics from 1:30 to 2 p.m.; the Montana Bird Lady and live raptors – Jack the prairie falcon and Hawkeye the rough-legged hawk – will be on hand for presentations at 1, 1:30 and 2:15 p.m.; and aquatic invasive species detection dogs Rosebud and Ismay, who serve at Montana’s watercraft inspection stations, will show off their skills and sensitive noses every half hour.

FLBS Director and UM Bierman Professor of Ecology Jim Elser will present “The Future of Science at the Bio Station” at 3:15 p.m.

Research boat cruises will leave shore at 1:10, 1:45, 2:20, 2:55 and 4:05 p.m. Attendees may reserve a space by picking up a ticket at the open house. Nature walks and guided station tours are scheduled for 1:45 and 4 p.m.

For more information about the Flathead Lake Biological Station, visit <http://flbs.umt.edu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/UMFLBS> or call 406-982-3301.

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Photo: UM mascot Monte helps FLBS scientists study Flathead Lake.

Contact: UM Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-982-3301, flbs@flbs.umt.edu.

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A to Z

my.umt.edu

UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / University of Montana Research Unveils New Player in Lichen Symbiosis

University of Montana Research Unveils New Player in Lichen Symbiosis

July 21, 2016

MISSOULA – Dating back nearly 150 years, a classic example of symbiosis has been the lichen: a mutually helpful relationship between an alga and a fungus.

Now, that well-known dualistic relationship is being challenged. Researchers at the University of Montana, working together with colleagues from Austria, Sweden and Purdue University, have found that some of the world's most common lichen species actually are composed of three partners – not the widely recognized two.

Their work, led by UM postdoctoral researcher Toby Spribille, will be published as the cover article in the July 29th issue of the journal *Science*. By using recent advances in genomic sequencing, the research team



showed that many lichens contain not only the expected alga (the photosynthesizing partner) and fungus, but also a previously unknown second fungus that had never before been detected.

“This is a pretty fundamental shake-up of what we thought we knew about the lichen symbiosis,” Spribille said. “It forces a reassessment of basic assumptions about how lichens are formed and who does what in the symbiosis.”

This discovery came about when Spribille, working as part of UM microbiologist John McCutcheon’s team, set out to answer why one of two closely related lichen species, common in western Montana, contains substances toxic to mammals while the other does not.

Previous DNA studies concluded that the toxic and nontoxic forms of the known fungal and algal partners of these lichens were identical, leaving unsolved the mystery of how one lichen acquires its toxic properties while the other does not. In fact, a longstanding riddle in lichen research has been that even in cases where the two known symbiotic partners are exactly the same, they sometimes combine to form lichens that differ wildly in appearance and in chemistry.

Spribille, who has studied the biology and taxonomy of lichens for 15 years, teamed up with McCutcheon, whose lab uses advanced genomic and microscopic tools to study insect symbioses, to see if they together could solve the mystery.

“When it comes to the study of lichens, he’s one of the world’s best – a really high-class scientist,” McCutcheon said. “What my lab could offer was experience with genomics on difficult samples, and – because we traditionally work on insect systems – a different perspective on symbiosis.”

Spribille began by performing deep sequencing of ribonucleic



acid, or RNA, from lichens. He ground up whole lichens – both the toxic and nontoxic samples – and compared their RNA, whose job is to act as a messenger carrying instructions from DNA. To his surprise, he found that each lichen contained not one but two fungal species. What is more, he found that the toxic lichens contained far more of the extra fungus, which the team identified as a previously unknown form of yeast.

The researchers next began to suspect that this result was not an isolated phenomenon.

“We basically thought, ‘What are the chances that we had picked the only lichen to have two fungi?’” Spribille said.

They began to check other lichens and eventually sampled material from all over the world. It turns out, the second fungus was found

in common lichens worldwide – from Antarctica and Japan to South America and the highlands of Ethiopia.

“It’s everywhere,” McCutcheon said. “This thing has basically been hidden in plain sight for more than 100 years. People were probably looking right at it, and they thought they knew what they were seeing, but they were actually seeing something else.”

Now that the research team understands that the new fungus is globally distributed and seems to be an integral

part of the symbiosis, they will set out to understand what it really does.

“The word symbiosis in part comes from the study of lichens,” McCutcheon said. “The textbook definition of lichen has always been restricted to one fungus and one fungus only. Our work shows that this definition doesn’t seem to be correct.”

The paper is available online at <http://science.sciencemag.org/lookup/doi/10.1126/science.aaf8287>.

###

Contact: Toby Spribille, UM postdoctoral researcher, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 011-43-660-839-2918, toby.spribille@mso.umt.edu; John McCutcheon, associate professor, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 406-243-6071, john.mccutcheon@umontana.edu.



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A to Z

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UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / Contemporary Art by Andy Warhol, Yayoi Kusama on Display at UM

Contemporary Art by Andy Warhol, Yayoi Kusama on Display at UM

July 21, 2016

MISSOULA – “Two Multicolored Marilyns,” a late painting by renowned pop-artist Andy Warhol, is on public display at the University of Montana from July 22 to Dec. 1. Also featured is the monumental “Wishing to See the Night Sky,” a recent painting by resurgent Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama.

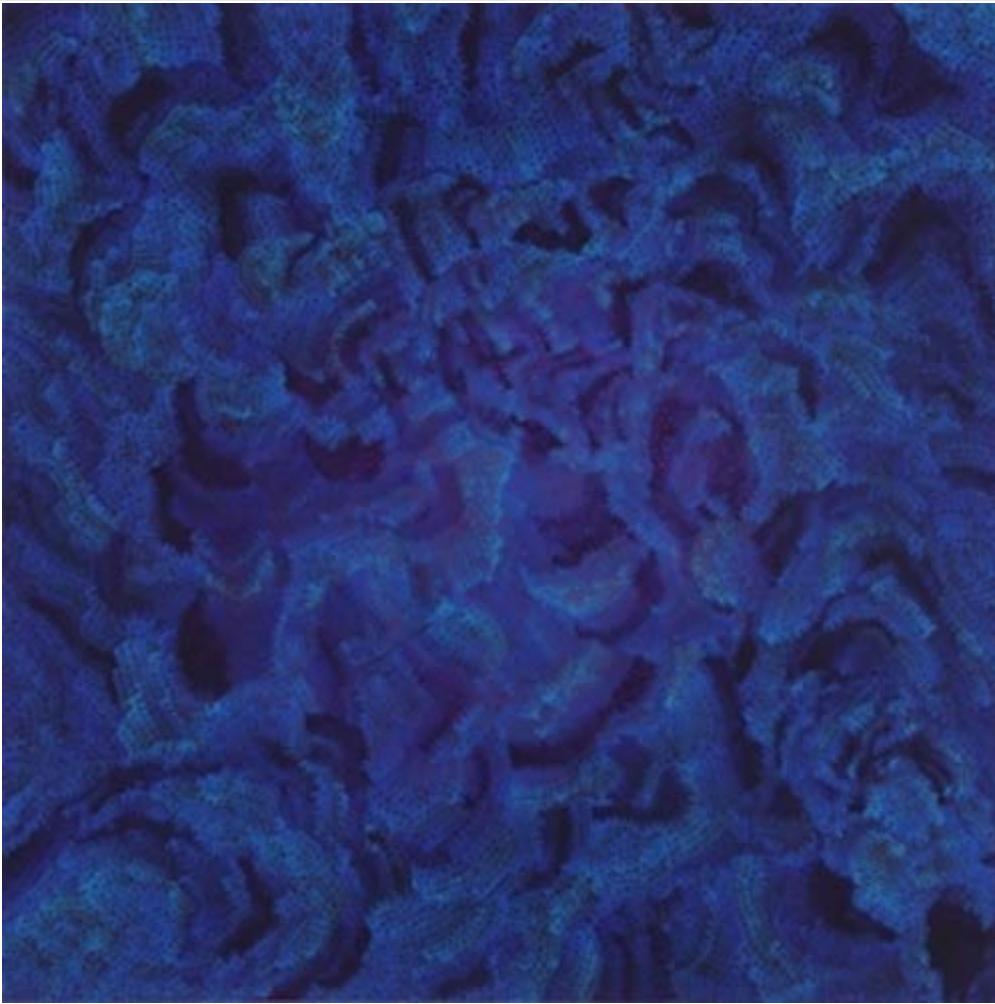
The artworks are on loan to the Montana Museum of Art & Culture as part of Visiting Masterpieces, MMAC’s ongoing program to highlight masterworks by important historic and contemporary artists in private collections. The

paintings may be viewed in the Office of the President reception area located in Main Hall, which has public hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except during University holidays.



Perhaps best known for the “Campbell’s Soup Cans” and “Brillo Boxes” he created in the early ‘60s, Warhol remains one of the most recognized American artists of the 20th century. In the weeks after Marilyn Monroe’s death in August 1962, Warhol began producing silkscreen portraits of her based on a publicity photograph from the film “Niagara.” He went on to produce other multiples like “Two Multicolored Marylins” up to his death in 1987, depicting film stars and other celebrities, from Brigitte Bardot, Lana Turner and Elvis Presley to Queen Elizabeth II, Mao Tse Tung and Jacqueline Kennedy.

Scholars frequently describe Kusama’s creative practice of covering surfaces with meticulous, repetitive patterns as “obsessive.” “Wishing to See the Night Sky,” is a continuation of the large abstractions she first created after moving to New York City from her native Japan in the late ‘50s. Kusama aptly referred to these early paintings as “infinity nets,” and they were a direct response to the prevailing abstract expressionism of the time. Her frequent practice of joining individual elements together into a continuous whole may evoke the forms she saw as a girl on her family’s seed farm and flower



nursery.

Kusama is known for transcending minimalism and pop-art styles that surged in postwar American art.

Critics also cite her psychiatric

issues, which intensified upon her return to Japan in 1973, as central to her creative output. Indeed, the artist describes her art as a therapeutic outlet to cope with hallucinations that have haunted her since childhood. Kusama works primarily in a studio she built not far from the asylum where she has lived since her return to Japan.

For more information call MMAC at 406-243-2019 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/>.

Contact: Jeremy Canwell, curator of art, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, jeremy.canwell@mso.umt.edu.

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A to Z

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UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / [UM Restaurant Iron Griz Wins Grand Prize in National Dining Awards](#)

UM Restaurant Iron Griz Wins Grand Prize in National Dining Awards

July 20, 2016

MISSOULA – The National Association of College and University Food Services awarded the University of Montana’s Iron Griz – An American Bistro the grand prize in its 2016 Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards.

The Iron Griz, located at the UM Golf Course, began operating one year ago after an extensive renovation of the club house building.

More than 80 colleges and universities across the United States, Canada and Mexico submitted entries in six categories, and a team of six judges examined each entry before carefully selecting top candidates in each category.

The Iron Griz first earned the gold award in the single-concept retail operation category for a large university. From this elite group of gold-award winning operations, it was recently selected as a grand prize winner.

“The Loyal E. Horton Award is the highest accolade a venue can receive for facility, concept, marketing and menu design in our industry,” said Mark LoParco, director of UM Dining. “The awards showcase the best of collegiate food

service concepts across the country.”

The Iron Griz offers American cuisine featuring seasonal ingredients from local farmers, purchased through the UM Farm to College Program, as well as produce from UM Dining gardens. The beef is USDA Prime wagyu from **Belgrade**. The Iron Griz is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. The restaurant is located at 515 South Ave. E. For additional information, visit <http://www.irongriz.com/>.

###

Contact: Sam Belanger, UM Dining director of marketing, 406-243-5089, samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.



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A to Z

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UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / [UM Homecoming Parade Applications Now Available Online](#)

UM Homecoming Parade Applications Now Available Online

July 19, 2016

MISSOULA – Applications now are available for entry into this year’s University of Montana Homecoming Parade, to take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, in downtown Missoula. This year’s Homecoming theme is “Under the Big Sky.”

Applications are available online at <http://www.grizalum.com> or by calling 406-243-5211 or toll-free at 1-877-862-5867. Applications also may be picked up in person at the Missoula Chamber of Commerce, located at 825 E. Front St., or at the UM Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association, located in Brantly Hall Room 115 on campus.

Applications must be received by Friday, Sept. 9, to be eligible for the \$30 early-bird fee. Applications received after Sept. 9 will require a \$35 registration fee, and the final deadline to submit entries is 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16.

For more information call the UM Office of Alumni Relations at 406-243-5211 or email alumni@umontana.edu.

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Contact: UM Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association, 406-243-5211, alumni@umontana.edu.



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A to Z

my.umt.edu

UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / Tickets on Sale July 22 for Common Kings October Concert at UM

Tickets on Sale July 22 for Common Kings October Concert at UM

July 18, 2016

MISSOULA – Common Kings will bring their array of head-rocking beats, feel-good vibes and emotional fever to the University of Montana on Wednesday, Oct. 12. The concert will be held in the University Center Ballroom.

Tickets for the show, which is co-presented by UM Productions and 1111 Presents, go on sale 10 a.m. MST Friday, July 22. They cost \$15 for a student and \$20 for the general



public and can be purchased
online at

https://www.ticketfly.com/purchase/event/1255679?utm_medium=bks, at The Source in the University Center and at Rockin' Rudy's.

The majority of Common Kings were born in the South Pacific, and raised in Orange County, California. Growing up with households full of colorful personality and vibrant passions for music, Common Kings' members grew up forming individual musical paths. This musical journey involved mimicking and listening to artists such as Van Morrison, Stevie Wonder, George Benson, Jim Croce, Michael Jackson, The Who, Led Zeppelin, Gypsy Kings, Bob Marley and more. The Common Kings' own unique sound has been influenced by the culmination of these genres and styles.

With the current success of reaching over 350,000 single downloads the Common Kings' will soon release their full-length debut album.

For more information call UM Productions Marketing Coordinator Chanelle Paakkonen at 406-243-4719 or email marketing@umproductions.org.

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Contact: Chanelle Paakkonen, marketing coordinator, UM Productions, 406-243-4719, marketing@umproductions.org.

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A to Z

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UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / [UM Launches Welcome Week for New Students, Invites Public to Help Students Move In](#)

UM Launches Welcome Week for New Students, Invites Public to Help Students Move In

July 15, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will welcome new students to Missoula Aug. 24-Sept. 2 with a slate of welcome events and activities.

UM's Week of Welcome kicks off Aug. 24 with Move-In Crew volunteers helping new students move their belongings into the residence halls on campus. Members of the public are invited to volunteer, along with UM faculty and staff, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, and Saturday, Aug. 27. Volunteers who donate two or more hours on the Move-in Crew will receive a free meal in the Food Zoo and a T-shirt. Volunteers must register online at https://umt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0CCLm1N28R3Eegd by Tuesday, July 26, in order to ensure they receive a correctly sized T-shirt.

Other Week of Welcome events include a shopping event on Saturday where students can purchase items for their residence hall rooms; Convocation on Wednesday, Aug. 31, an official welcome event hosted by UM President

Royce Engstrom on the Oval; and WelcomeFeast on Friday, Sept. 2, which provides students a free outdoor meal and a chance to visit tables hosted by various student groups and support services from around campus.

The full schedule can be accessed online at <https://www.umt.edu/orientation/wow/default.php>.

For more information call UM Residence Life Associate Director of Operations Melissa Neidigh at 406-243-2009 or email melissa.neidigh@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Melissa Neidigh, associate director of operations, UM Residence Life, 406-243-2009, melissa.neidigh@mso.umt.edu.



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A to Z

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UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / [Public Invited to Share Testimonials About 'Backroads of Montana'](#)

Public Invited to Share Testimonials About 'Backroads of Montana'

July 14, 2016

BILLINGS – Personnel from the popular MontanaPBS travelogue show “Backroads of Montana” will attend the Yellowstone Valley Farmers Market in Billings on Saturday, July 16, to collect testimonials for their 25th anniversary program to be broadcast in November. The market runs from 8 a.m. to noon at the intersection of Second Avenue and North Broadway.

Fans of the program are encouraged to share stories about their favorite “Backroads” person or place, recount trips they have taken based on the program and maybe even sing the theme song. They’ll also have the chance to meet host William Marcus and producers Gus Chambers, Ray Ekness and John Twiggs somewhere among the carrots, cabbage and farm-fresh eggs.

For more information contact Marcus at 406-544-8616 or william.marcus@umontana.edu.

###

Contact: William Marcus, "Backroads of Montana" host, 406-544-8618, william.marcus@umontana.edu.



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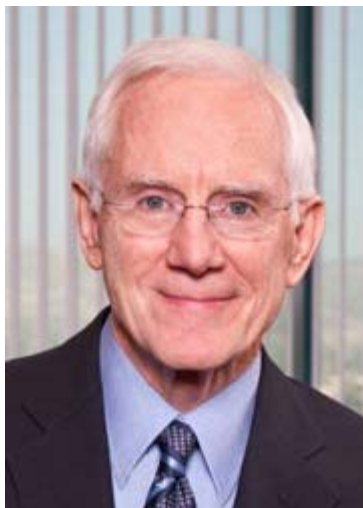
UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / [UM Names Four Recipients of Distinguished Alumni Award](#)

UM Names Four Recipients of Distinguished Alumni Award

July 13, 2016

MISSOULA – Four outstanding University of Montana graduates will receive 2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards during Homecoming weekend festivities on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. The awards are the highest honor presented by UM's Alumni Association.



This year's distinguished alumni are Darrel Choate '65, M.A. '67, of Bozeman; Timothy Conver '66 of Chatsworth, California, Arlynn Fishbaugh '74 of Helena; and Tom Seekins '74 of Missoula.

Choate, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics at UM, was instrumental in coordinating Boeing Co.'s efforts in the Strategic Defense Initiative – also known as Star Wars – for which he performed sensitive trade studies and analysis that have influenced the current U.S. ballistic missile defense architecture. He also served as the systems engineering manager for the development of Sea Launch, a program in cooperation with Russian, Ukrainian and Norwegian companies to launch commercial satellites from one of the world's largest self-propelled, semisubmersible platforms. He is a member of the Boeing Company's Technical Fellowship program, placing him among the top 1 percent of Boeing engineers who demonstrate technical leadership across the industry and who make a significant difference in U.S. and global engineering excellence. Choate began his career with the Aerospace Corporation and continued with the Kaman Science Corporation, eventually retiring from the Boeing Company. Upon retirement, he adapted his technical and personal skills to assist the development of infrastructure in Mexico, Honduras and Haiti, and made significant contributions to the Japan International Project, a tsunami rebuilding effort.



Conver, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from UM, is the chairman and former CEO of AeroVironment Inc., a world leader in aeronautical research innovation involving cutting-edge flight technology. AV designs, produces and operates Unmanned Aircraft Systems – commonly known as drones – and other electric transportation solutions, including energy-efficient systems for electric vehicles. AV is the largest supplier of drones to the U.S. Department of Defense, accounting for about 85 percent of all UAS flown by American defense forces. The company is currently developing missile-like air vehicles that can eliminate potential collateral damage in its use, thus saving innocent civilians in a combat environment. AV also developed the bio-inspired Nano Hummingbird, a remote-controlled aircraft designed to resemble and fly like a hummingbird, which was featured on the cover of Time magazine as one of the “50 Best Inventions of 2011.” Conver was AV's CEO from 1992 to May 2016. In 2016, AV's market capitalization exceeds \$700 million, and the company employs more than 625 people.

One of the most prominent arts administrators in the country, Fishbaugh will retire in September as executive director of the Montana Arts Council, a role she's held since 1992. Under her leadership, the agency excelled at promoting the arts in Montana by encouraging commerce and business development for artists and art organizations and providing greater access to the arts across the state, including in underserved rural and Native American communities. Fishbaugh is known for creating an environment that makes people want to do more and who leverages the talents of her colleagues to meet and achieve their goals. She inspired Montana Arts Council staff to forge new partnerships with legislators and other state decision-makers who previously opposed public funding of the arts in Montana. The council's initiatives and strategy have served as models for other state arts councils, regional service organizations and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Fishbaugh is often invited to share her knowledge and insight at arts conferences across the country.

Seekins is a professor of psychology and director of the Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities at UM. He is one of the leading social scientists in the country working to improve the lives of people

with disabilities. The community-based participator research methods Seekins helped develop have led to nationally implemented social programs, such as Living Well with a Disability, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living. He has published more than 120 journal articles and book chapters that have helped shape the science of disability and community living, and has influenced major research programs to reflect the voice of rural Americans with disabilities, including the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in the U.S. Department of Education, and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has mentored nearly 50 students and secured more than \$30 million in grant funds to conduct research and develop programs for health promotion, self-employment, economic development, community participation, housing, transportation, civic leadership and American Indian disability issues.

The public is invited to attend a panel discussion featuring the Distinguished Alumni Award recipients at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, in the University Center Ballroom at UM. An awards ceremony and reception will follow.

###

Contact: Jodi Moreau, events coordinator/board liaison, UM Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association, 406-243-6124, jodi.moreau@umontana.edu.



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A to Z

my.umt.edu

UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / SpectrUM's July Free Day to Celebrate Building with Biology

SpectrUM's July Free Day to Celebrate Building with Biology

July 13, 2016

MISSOULA –The University of Montana's spectrUM Discovery Area will offer free admission to its downtown Missoula museum located at 218 E. Front St. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, July 22.

As part of the day's Building with Biology theme, visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to design a "super-organism" to solve a problem, extract DNA from wheat germ, and meet with role models in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Hosted in partnership with We Are Montana in the Classroom, spectrUM's monthly free days provide all community members with access to hands-on enrichment and role models in higher education and careers.

UM role models who will lead activities at this month's free day include Assistant Professor Monica Serban (Material Sciences Program), Research Assistant Professor Celine Beamer (Center for Environmental Health Sciences), Assistant Research Professor Alyson Smith (Division of Biological Sciences), Assistant Professor Orion Berryman (Department of Chemistry), spectrUM Staff Scientist Amanda Duley and graduate students Joanna Kreitinger (Division of Biological Sciences) and Kristian Stipe (Department of Chemistry). UM's role models will be joined by

Missoula County Commissioner Cola Rowley, Rivertop Renewables scientists Kelly Barton and Jon Speare, and Rocky Mountain Laboratories scientists Lara Myers and Brea Hampton.

"These activities are great ways for the public and scientists to explore ideas together as well as for learners of all ages to explore synthetic biology and its applications in society," said Duley, who is coordinating the July event.

We Are Montana in the Classroom, part of the UM Broader Impacts Group in the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship, partners with more than 100 UM faculty members, professionals and graduate students to inspire K-12 students about higher education and career pathways. Last academic year, the initiative reached over 10,000 students through statewide tours, classroom visits and distance-learning experiences. We Are Montana in the Classroom is partnering with spectrUM to host six free, monthly community days in 2016.

The Building with Biology project is funded by the National Science Foundation and led by the Museum of Science, Boston. Building with Biology events are taking place at over 150 museums and institutions throughout the country from June to September 2016.

SpectrUM's museum is located at 218 E. Front St. and is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission usually costs \$3.50 per person, but will be free for all visitors all day Friday, July 22.

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Contact: Amanda Duley, spectrUM staff scientist, 406-728-STEM (7836), amanda.duley@umontana.edu.



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A to Z

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UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / [UM to Launch Statewide Adaptive Bike, Recreation Initiative](#)

UM to Launch Statewide Adaptive Bike, Recreation Initiative

July 11, 2016

MISSOULA – Montanans living with disabilities will soon have access to adaptive cycles through a new statewide initiative spearheaded by the University of Montana. The “Wheels Across Montana” program will debut at the inaugural Adaptive Bike Clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, July 15, at McCormick Park in Missoula.

UM’s Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities recently received a \$75,000 High Impact Innovative Assistive Technology grant from the Dana and Christopher Reeve Foundation to make the project possible.

Adaptive trikes will begin to arrive in Missoula, **Dillion**, **Billings** and **Fort Peck** this month, and each community will host events to deliver adaptive recreation equipment to encourage physical activity among people of all ages with paralysis, disabilities and chronic diseases who face additional health and social barriers due to living in rural areas.

“This grant will offer greater independence to individuals living with paralysis and provide our community with services that truly enhance all our lives,” said Mindy Renfro, principal investigator with UM’s Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities.

In each region two local organizations – one with recreation experience and one with health care experience serving people with disabilities – will partner to store equipment and lead safe, fun and inclusive community programs. Health care partners will promote the programs to patients and clients with disabilities and, when needed, individualize programs to meet the specific needs of participants.

“Limited funding with great need has limited our store of recreational equipment,” Renfro said. “Most people with disabilities report that the cost of recreational assistive technology is prohibitive to their participation with their families and communities for recreational and outdoor sporting events.”

The Reeve Foundation grant will immediately remove these barriers to many Montanans in four major areas of the state.

“In addition, we know that people living with disabilities experience a much higher prevalence of chronic disease, falls and depression than their peers and that promoting physical activity and social engagement is key to prevention,” Renfro said.

The Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information visit <https://www.christopherreeve.org/about-us> or email Rita Gentles, manager of marketing and communications, at rgentles@christopherreeve.org.

UM’s Rural Institute improves the quality of life for people with disabilities in rural communities, their families and service providers. For more information visit <http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/> or call 406-243-5467. For information specific to the “Wheels Across Montana” project, call Renfro at 406-243-2841.

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Contact: Mindy Renfro, principal investigator, UM Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities, 406-243-2841, mindy.renfro@umontana.edu.



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A to Z

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UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / Public Invited to Observe Osprey Chicks Up Close

Public Invited to Observe Osprey Chicks Up Close

July 08, 2016

MISSOULA - Members of the public are invited to join University of Montana Professor Erick Greene and researchers from the Montana Osprey Project as they handle live osprey chicks and collect valuable data on the health of the Clark Fork River at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 14.

The Montana Osprey Project is a long-term study of osprey ecology and heavy metal contamination in the upper Clark Fork River and its tributaries. On July 14, Greene and his research team invite bird enthusiasts of all ages to join them



as they visit a Missoula-area nest to collect valuable data from young osprey chicks. Participants will have a chance to see the chicks and learn more about the Montana Osprey Project.

To reserve a spot on the field trip, email Dalit Guscio at

dalit.guscio@mso.umt.edu. Those who sign up for the event will receive information on where the event will take place before July 14.

Contact: Dalit Guscio, program manager, UM Clark Fork Watershed Education Program, 406-361-0599, dalit.guscio@mso.umt.edu.



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A to Z

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UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / [UM Hires Director of Communications for the Office of the President](#)

UM Hires Director of Communications for the Office of the President

July 07, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana has hired a new director of communications for the Office of the President.

Paula Short, chief of the Forestry Assistance Bureau at the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, will begin her new duties at UM on Monday, July 25. Short's position at UM is a newly reconfigured role combining the work of communications and lobbying. Vice President for Integrated Communications Peggy Kuhr has stepped down from her position and will work on special projects for the president until she retires in December.

The job is composed of three main areas of responsibility – development of all forms of the president's formal written and oral communications, serving as the University's representative on the Montana University System legislative strategy team during and between legislative sessions, and developing and nurturing relationships with individuals and groups associated with the University. The director will also serve as the main point of contact with the news media and take on other projects as they arise.

"The search committee did a fantastic job of identifying talented people for the position," said President Royce C. Engstrom. "Paula emerged as a person with exemplary communications experience, high energy and knowledge of

the legislative process. We are fortunate to have her join the UM team.”

Short is a UM alumna, having received her Bachelor of Science in forestry in 1994. During her time as a student, she served as a UM Advocate and was elected business manager of the Associated Students of UM. Short began her career with the DNRC in 1994 and also worked for several years as a morning show co-host and news director for western Montana radio stations. In 2008 she received her master’s degree in organizational leadership from Gonzaga University.

“I was so impressed with the communicators I met with from across campus during the selection process,” Short said. “I am excited to serve UM, and I look forward to being part of an extraordinary team.”

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Contact: Royce C. Engstrom, UM president, 406-243-2311, .



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UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2016](#) / [July](#) / [UM Hosts International Conservationists for Seminar](#)

UM Hosts International Conservationists for Seminar

July 01, 2016

MISSOULA - The University of Montana will host two dozen conservationists from around the world while they explore western Montana over the next several days as part of the 17th annual International Seminar on Protected Area Management.

Participants in the seminar, which is sponsored by the Wilderness Institute and the College of Forestry and Conservation at UM, arrived in Missoula on June 28. UM serves as base camp for participants while they take educational



excursions to four national forests, two wilderness areas, the Flathead Indian Reservation, several rural communities and

Yellowstone National Park before their trip culminates with a visit to Washington, D.C.

The 26 mid-career protected area managers represent Botswana, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Georgia, Indonesia, Israel, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of the Congo, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"What better place than Missoula to bring this diverse group from the around the world to explore public landscapes in the western U.S. as inspiration to discuss challenges and successes faced by people who manage protected areas around the globe," said Wilderness Institute Director Natalie Dawson, who also directs the seminar.

The International Seminar on Protected Area Management, which also is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, is an integrated, state-of-the-art course that examines strategies to conserve the world's most special places. The seminar is designed for midcareer planners and managers of nationally significant protected areas worldwide, and focuses on evaluating the policies and institutional arrangements that sustain both people and natural resources.

For more information call 406-552-5550, email wi@cfc.umt.edu or visit <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/ispam/default.php>.

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Contact: Natalie Dawson, director, UM Wilderness Institute, 406-552-5550, natalie.dawson@umontana.edu.

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