October 2016 news releases

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UM Forum to Examine Inclusion, Exclusion

October 28, 2016

MISSOULA – A panel of Missoula community members at the University of Montana will share thought-provoking personal stories about inclusion and exclusion regarding disabilities as part of the Wednesday, Nov. 2, DiverseU symposium.

The forum is titled “Does All Really Mean All? Excluding Many, Some or Few” and will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in University Center Room 327.

Sponsored by the Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities, the event is free and open to the public, and audience discussion is encouraged. Panelists will offer a wide variety of perspectives on disability. The panelists are:

• Mike Beers, youth advocacy leader and comedian.
• Chris Clasby, peer advocacy coordinator.
• Tony Fasso, UM student and advocate.
• Bob Liston, advocate, former UM student and retired Rural Institute employee.
• Jenny Montgomery, advocate and parent of a child with a disability.
Panelists will share stories to trigger a discussion of whether “all” really means all in our community. To better understand inclusion, panelists will discuss its antitheses: exclusion. What does it mean? How does it impact individual lives at organizational, institutional and community levels? One in five of experience some type of disability. This ratio grows as we age and at some point in our lives disability will likely put us in a position to be excluded. Based on lived experience, the event will explore these issues and describe ways in which all really can mean all.

Following brief presentations, a moderator will engage the panelists and audience in a discussion to further explore these issues and to help audience members develop strategies to reduce exclusion in their daily lives. The goal of the discussion is to raise awareness of silent or invisible exclusionary practices such as the layout of our physical spaces, language or work/school/recreation habits that any community member can address.

"With raised awareness, audience members will leave more likely to be cognizant of ways to include all in our community," Rural Institute Executive Director Martin Blair said.

DiverseU is a two-day event hosted at UM that provides a forum for honest dialogue in order to explore the complexities of human experience, promote understanding and create community through the practice of civil discourse. For a full schedule of offerings visit http://www.umt.edu/diverseu/schedule/default.php.

UM's Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities provides services, training and research that supports the independence, inclusion and participation of people with disabilities. For more information about RIIC and its work, visit: http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/.

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**Contact:** Tracy Boehm, director of knowledge translation, UM Rural Institute Research and Training Center, 406-243-5741, tracy.boehm@mso.umt.edu.
Native Issues Speaker Series Comes to UM in November

October 28, 2016

MISSOULA – In recognition of American Indian Heritage Month, four Native American speakers will give talks at the University of Montana in November as part of the Native Issues Speaker Series. All talks are free and open to the public.

The series includes:

- **11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, Payne Family Native American Center Room 14:** Michel Kohl will present his research journey as an undergraduate through to his postdoctoral appointment. Kohl is from the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and graduated from UM with bachelor and master degrees in wildlife biology. He is currently a doctoral candidate at Utah State University and will start a postdoc soon with the Ford Foundation.

- **10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 7, Native American Center Room 11:** College of Forestry and Conservation Wildlife Biology student Paden Alexander will present his research titled “Combining Cutting-Edge Genetic Technology and Traditional Ecological Knowledge to Assess and Monitor Wolverine Distribution on the Flathead Indian Reservation.”
• **11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, Native American Center Room 105**: Silas Whitman, a tribal elder from the Nez Perce tribe in Idaho, will present on issues that need promotion both at the higher education level and transitioning to tribes for their application.

• **11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30, Native American Center Room 10**: College of Forestry and Conservation faculty member Brian Chaffin, Alexander Blewett III School of Law faculty member Michelle Bryan and graduate students Jennifer Harrington and Ranalda Tsosie will lead a panel discussion on tribal water.

The Native American Natural Resource Program at the College of Forestry and Conservation is co-hosting the speaker series with the UM chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and PNW-COSMOS.

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**Contact**: Ruth Swaney, UM Native American Natural Resource Program coordinator, 406-243-5561, ruth.swaney@umontana.edu.
UM Dining Relocates Grizzly Green Market

October 28, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana Dining has moved the Grizzly Green Market, which operates from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays, to the Corner Store in the Lommasson Center.

Formerly located on the library mall, the market was moved in response to customer feedback. The new location allows shoppers to stay warm and dry and provides free 20-minute parking in the lot directly south of the Lommasson Center.

At the market Missoulians can stock up on fresh produce, local eggs and locally crafted food items. The Grizzly Green Market also participates in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to help reduce food insecurity and hunger for low-income households.

Households in the SNAP program will be able to use their Electronic Benefit Transfer cards to purchase fresh produce and other food items at the market and the Corner Store.

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

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UM to Host Alzheimer’s Research Event

October 27, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana has partnered with the Alzheimer’s Association to present “Hope Without Hype: The Latest in Alzheimer’s Research” on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Dr. Dean Hartley, director of science initiatives for the Alzheimer’s Association in Chicago, will be available for coffee and conversation in the UM Skaggs Building Foyer from 9 to 10 a.m. and present from 10 to 11 a.m. in Skaggs Room 114.

The presentation is free and offered for clinicians, researchers, students, aging-service providers and caregivers, but registration is appreciated. To register, go to http://www.alz.org/montana or call 800-272-3900.

In his presentation, Hartley will provide an overview of the latest science behind Alzheimer’s and related dementias. He will outline how biomarkers can detect what treatments work and the complications of aging these biomarkers might miss, as well as differentiate between various dementias.

“The earlier you diagnose with, the earlier treatment will give you a better outcome,” Hartley said.

According to research by the Alzheimer’s Association, the disease affects more than 19,000 people and their
families in Montana and 5 million across the country. It is the sixth leading cause of death, and every 66 seconds someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer’s. Researchers predict as many as 16 million people will have the disease by 2050. One in nine people could develop it by age 65 and one in three by age 85. It has no treatment, no cure and no means of prevention.

“Anybody who has a brain is vulnerable to Alzheimer’s disease,” Hartley said. “We think there’s things like education, nutrition, exercise, mental and social engagement (which) are now starting to show that they may reduce the risk for Alzheimer’s disease.”

Hartley said the key to finding treatments and a cure are resources.

“We know we need resources – time and money – to change the course of this disease,” he said. “Resources are so critical.”

“Hope Without Hype” also will take place the same day at Community Medical Center from 7 to 8 a.m. and Partnership Health Center from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The Alzheimer’s Association, a leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support and research, seeks to eliminate the disease through the advancement of research, to provide enhanced care and support for all affected and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. To learn more visit http://www.alz.org.

The Alzheimer’s Association has partnered with UM’s Rural Institute, Community Medical Center, the Missoula Coalition on Aging and Disability Education Committee, the Montana Geriatric Education Center and Missoula Aging Services to bring the event to Missoula.

For more information, call Mindy Renfro, clinical coordinator, UM MonTECH Programs of the Rural Institute, at 406-243-2841 or email mindy.renfro@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Lynn Mullowney, executive director, Montana Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association, 406-252-3053 ext. 8125, lmullowney@alz.org.
October 27, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station has been awarded a $2 million grant to study diversity among insects, crustaceans and other arthropods in river floodplains and how they might be affected by climate change.

The four-year, National Science Foundation award went to researcher Gordon Luikart and co-investigators Jack Stanford and Brian Hand. The funding is provided through the NSF Dimensions of Biodiversity program.

“River floodplains are among the most diverse yet endangered landscapes on Earth due to human encroachment, shifts in river flow regimes and climate change,” Luikart said. “Floodplain habitats, including river channel networks and underground aquifers, support diverse invertebrate communities, but the biodiversity within them hasn’t been extensively studied yet.”

He said the project will use novel genomic tools and modeling frameworks to assess the genetics, populations and functional trait diversity among floodplain arthropods. Researchers will study floodplains in Montana’s Crown of the Continent ecosystem, as well as Washington’s Methow drainage, in collaboration with Amanda DelVecchia.
(Allegheny College) and U.S. Geological Survey biologists Clint Muhlfeld and Joe Giersh.

“This research will build upon 40 years of work by our former station director Jack Stanford and colleagues at the biostation, who intensively studied the Nyack floodplain on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River near Glacier National Park,” Luikart said.

The grant also will train a new generation of high school students, college students and public citizen scientists about floodplain biodiversity and environments through “bioblitzes” – intensive, 24-hour, sampling events that may discover new species. Volunteers also will be involved in seasonal sampling throughout the year.

UM’s Flathead Lake Biological Station is one of the oldest active biological field research stations in the United States. It was established near Bigfork in 1899 and moved to Flathead Lake’s Yellow Bay in 1908. The station conducts multiple college courses, graduate programs, workshops and research on everything from genes to landscapes ranging from the Crown of the Continent ecosystem to those in Yellowstone and China.

Contact: Gordon Luikart, UM professor of conservation ecology and genetics, 406-982-3301, gordon.luikart@umontana.edu.
UM Folklore Society to Host Town and Gown Dance

October 26, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Folklore Society will host its annual Town and Gown Dance from 8 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Missoula Senior Center, located at 705 S. Higgins Ave. A beginner’s workshop, taught by Derek Gallagher, starts at 7:30 p.m.

The event is free, but donations are accepted. The event features Irish and Appalachian fiddle music from the Bozeman-based band Sage & Basil.

“If you can walk and smile at the same time, you can Contra dance,” said UM Folklore Society Adviser Vicki Watson.

The Town and Gown Dance features Contra dance, which is an Americanized European country dance. Two long lines of people dance a series of simple figures and continually move along the lines until each person has danced with everyone else. Organizers said the dance figures are easy to learn and are called out during the dance.

To watch an example of the type of dancing featured at this event, go to https://youtu.be/qvHEnAKlaIY.
For more information call Vicki Watson at 406-243-5153, email vicki.watson@umontana.edu or visit http://missoulafolk.org/.

Contact: Vicki Watson, UM Folklore Society adviser, 406-243-5153, vicki.watson@umontana.edu.
UM Research Center Harnesses Funding to Benefit People with Disabilities

October 25, 2016

MISSOULA – The Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities at the University of Montana’s Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities has been awarded a five-year, $1.2 million contract with the University of Kansas with funding from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research.

The contract is part of a larger $4.3 million grant received by the University of Kansas Research and Training Center on Independent Living to promote community participation for adults with physical disabilities. It will fund the new Research and Training Center to Promote Interventions for Community Living, which will focus on modifying home environments and enhancing the personal skills of people with disabilities as a way to increase their community participation.

“We are working to level the playing field so people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to get into the community to pursue their goals,” said project co-director Craig Ravesloot.

The first intervention, called Home Base, will work with clients to improve the usability of their homes. “Community participation begins at home,” said Lillie Greiman, project director at The Rural Institute’s Research and Training
Even small home improvements, like installing grab bars in the bathroom, can give a person more time and energy for community participation, Greiman said. This could mean joining a social group or going to the movies, but also grocery shopping and attending doctor appointments.

For the first two years of the contract, Home Base will partner with two local centers for independent living, Summit Independent Living Center Inc., in Missoula, and the Whole Person, in Kansas City, Missouri, to work with their clients to implement the Home Base intervention. A CIL, is a non-residential nonprofit agency that offers tools, resources and services for people with a variety of disabilities in local communities.

Out and About, the second intervention, will focus on setting community participation goals and problem solving community barrier issues. The two interventions will be refined and tested separately with local CILs for the first two years of the grant, and will then be integrated and tested nationally.

RTC: Rural researchers at the UM Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities work to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities, especially those living in Montana and other rural areas across the country. The institute is part of the national network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research is a grants making institute of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living. The project is a collaboration with the University of Kansas, and will be co-directed by Craig Ravesloot at UM and Glen W. White at the University of Kansas.

For more information on this project and others, visit http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/ or http://rtc.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/.

Contact: Tracy Boehm, UM Rural Institute’s Research and Training Center, director of knowledge translation, 406-243-5741, tracy.boehm@mso.umt.edu.
Black Lives Matter Co-founder to Speak at UM

October 25, 2016

MISSOULA – Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, will give the keynote address for the 2016 DiverseU forum at the University of Montana.

Cullors will speak from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, in the University Center Ballroom. The talk will conclude DiverseU’s first day of events.

Cullors founded the Black Lives Matter movement along with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi. She was recognized as the “New Civil Rights Leader for the 21st Century” by the Los Angeles Times. Cullors travels the country delivering her powerful perspective into the adversities inflicted by social injustice and discrimination.

For a list of the events happening throughout the DiverseU forum or for more information on the keynote speaker, visit http://www.umt.edu/diverseu/schedule/default.php. All events, including Cullors’ keynote address, are free and open to the public.

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UM to Bring Two Leading Health Science Experts to Campus

UM News

October 24, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host an officer from the United States Public Health Service and a leader in systems biology development on Monday, Oct. 31, and Tuesday, Nov. 1, in the University Center Theater.

Helena Mishoe, assistant surgeon general and rear admiral in the PHS Commissioned Corps, will present her seminar “Biomedical Research and Innovation: Improves Lives and Changes Policy” from noon to 1 p.m. Monday.

Leroy Hood, president and co-founder of the Institute for Systems Biology, will present his community lecture “Scientific Wellness Will Transform Healthcare: A Personal Journey” at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday. Earlier that day, he will lead a seminar, “Systems Medicine and Proactive P4 Medicine: Technologies
and Systems Drive Strategies Enabling Data Driven Medicine," from 1 to 1:50 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 106.

Mishoe received a doctorate in microbiology from Georgetown University School of Medicine and a master’s degree in public health from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She is the associate director of research training and diversity at the National Institutes of Health’s National Heart, Lungs and Blood Institute and fosters greater participation by underrepresented individuals. She also develops research and training initiatives that focus on moving evidence-based interventions into real-world settings to improve health outcomes.

Mishoe has provided scientific leadership both nationally and internationally, with a number of notable accomplishments in research and scientific program administration for blood cell development, stem cell biology and stem cell transplantation. She also has earned numerous Corps and civilian awards: two Surgeon General’s Exemplary Service Medals, Outstanding Service Medals, the Commendation Medal, the Achievement Medal, the PHS Citation, numerous Outstanding Unit Citations, the Unit Commendation and several civilian mentoring and NIH Merit Awards.

Hood received a master’s degree from the John Hopkins School of Medicine and a doctorate in biochemistry from Caltech. He is the senior vice president and chief scientific officer for Providence St. Joseph Health and has contributed significantly to the advancement of biomedical research by developing five instruments critical to contemporary biology: automated DNA sequencers, DNA synthesizers, protein sequencers, peptide synthesizers and an ink jet printer for constructing DNA arrays.

Besides opening the door to the era of big data in biology and medicine, Hood helped pioneer the human genome program with the automated DNA sequencer, and under his direction the Human Genome Center sequenced portions of human
chromosomes 14 and 15.

Hood also has made seminal discoveries in the fields of immunology, neurobiology and biotechnology, as well as systems biology and its applications to cancer, neurodegenerative disease and the linkage of systems biology to personalized medicine. He has published 750 papers and received 36 patents, 17 honorary degrees and more than 100 awards and honors. Hood has founded or co-founded 15 different biotechnology companies, including Amgen, Applied Biosystems, Rosetta, Darwin, Integrated Diagnostics, Indi Molecular and Arivale, and is one of only 15 individuals elected to all three National Academies: the National Academy of Science, the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine.

All lectures are free and open to the public and sponsored by UM Health and Medicine. Mishoe’s seminar also is sponsored by the President’s Office and the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. Hood’s seminar and lecture are sponsored by Providence St. Patrick Hospital and the Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience.

For more information call Jennifer Geist, executive assistant to the dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy, at 406-243-4341 or email jennifer.geist@umontana.edu.

Contact: Jennifer Geist, executive assistant to the dean, Skaggs School of Pharmacy, 406-243-4341, jennifer.geist@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – An award-winning prose writer will read her fiction at the University of Montana at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, in Turner Hall’s Dell Brown Room.

Catherine Lacey, the Visiting Kittredge Writer, has taught throughout the semester in UM’s Creative Writing Program. She is the author of “Nobody is Ever Missing,” a finalist for the New York Public Library’s Young Lions Fiction Award and winner of a 2016 Whiting Award. It has been translated or is forthcoming in French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch and German.

“Catherine Lacey’s class is magic,” said Lisbet Portman, a graduate student in Lacey’s Techniques of Modern Fiction class. “The syllabus, which begins: ‘I have built for you an obstacle course…’ asks questions of the writer that are as playful as they...
are practical, as obsessive as they are considerate."

Lacey was awarded an Artist’s Fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts in 2012 and taught in the Creative Writing Program at Columbia University. She has published work in The New York Times and Oxford American, among others. Her second novel, “The Answers,” will be published in April 2017, and her first short story collection, “Small Differences,” will follow.

For more information on the Visiting Kittredge Writer or UM’s Creative Writing Program, call Karin Schalm, program coordinator, at 406-243-5267 or visit http://hs.umt.edu/creativewriting/.

**Contact:** Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, 406-243-5267.
SpectrUM’s Brain Exhibit Travels to Frenchtown Oct. 27-28

October 21, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area’s popular traveling exhibit “Brain: The World Inside Your Head” will visit Frenchtown Thursday and Friday, Oct. 27-28. Families and friends are also invited to attend Frenchtown’s free Science Palooza from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27. Students can share spectrUM’s “Brain” exhibition and activities with family, friends and community members.

Highlights of this exhibition include interactive science displays and activities that explore the wonders of neuroscience, including an EEG measurement station, a colossal brain and an activity in which visitors can move a ball using their own brain waves. Visitors to “Brain” also can walk through spectrUM’s new Big Sky Big Brain, a 13-foot tall inflatable brain, which displays different traumatic brain injuries. On Oct. 28, students from Frenchtown will participate in guided field trips to the “Brain” exhibition. This tour stop is powered by Frenchtown School.

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, UM’s spectrUM Discovery Area serves more than 50,000 Montanans annually through in-museum and mobile programs.

Since 2006, spectrUM has traveled exhibits and educators to 73 schools and four public libraries in 31 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations in Montana. In total, 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’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 Martin Family 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.

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.

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Contact: Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
SpectrUM’s Brain Exhibit Travels to Frenchtown Oct. 27-28 - UM News - University Of Montana
UM News

Blackfoot Expands Support for Missoula College Building, Community Education

October 19, 2016

MISSOULA – Before dignitaries broke ground on the new Missoula College building in August 2014, University of Montana President Royce Engstrom announced a pledge of $500,000 from local telecommunications company Blackfoot. Its generous gift of cash, services and equipment would fuel a quantum leap in technological opportunities for students, faculty and staff at the new Missoula College campus.

Now, two years later, Blackfoot has deepened its commitment to education in
western Montana by pledging an additional $70,000, bringing its total contribution to Missoula College's construction to $570,000. The company’s generosity makes it the largest private donor to the project.

“The future health and prosperity of Montanans depend on access to high-quality, cost-effective education and technology,” said Bill Squires, CEO of Blackfoot. “We are proud to continue to expand our partnership with Missoula College and the University of Montana with this additional pledge.”

The gift meets the need for network wiring infrastructure and other technology in the building while also providing a set of “dark” fiber-optic cables that connect the facility to the UM Mountain Campus, providing the college full access to the campus network.

UM Chief Information Officer Matt Riley said the new technology will put the college at the forefront of higher education.

“I think CIOs at other institutions would be jealous,” Riley said. “It's not every day you receive a gift that meets the foundational IT infrastructure needs for an entire new building.”

He says the collaboration between Blackfoot and UM has been wholehearted and thoughtful.

“Working with Blackfoot in planning the gift, then the details of implementation, has been nothing short of amazing,” Riley said. “We are closer partners now, with a jointly held goal of bringing the highest-performing wired network, wireless network and technology-enabled spaces to Missoula College, which is what our students will expect and deserve in the new space.”

Blackfoot has long been a committed partner in community development in its service areas and has been especially active in education. Each year, the company commits over $75,000 in charitable donations to education-related causes, including scholarships, computer training and facilities support.
The company understands long-term community success depends on collaborative support from partners like itself. Supporting Missoula College will help the college better address workforce needs for trained network technicians, among other industries.

“When donors make a gift to Missoula College, they’re making an investment in Montana,” said Shannon O’Brien, dean of Missoula College. “We are asking what private industry needs from higher education and from our students, and we are listening. I’m so pleased that Blackfoot has increased their commitment. It’s been a great partnership for us given their tech leadership in Missoula.”

The new Missoula College facility is expected to open in summer 2017 and will house a variety of training programs, including culinary arts, health professions and applied computing. The Blackfoot gift is part of $3 million in private funds committed to the project as a match to the $29 million put forward by the Montana Legislature to fund construction. Fundraising efforts are undertaken by the UM Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase philanthropic support to ensure UM’s excellence, access and affordability.

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Contact: Rachel Brumfield, UM Foundation marketing coordinator, 406-243-5691, rachel.brumfield@mso.umt.edu.
Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation Gives $3.5M to Expand EdReady Statewide

October 21, 2016

MISSOULA – In 2014 the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation donated $2.4 million to the Montana Digital Academy at the University of Montana to launch an innovative statewide math readiness program called EdReady Montana. Less than three years later, EdReady Montana has exceeded all expectations and inspired another generous gift of $3.5 million from the Washington Foundation to continue its critical work with Montana students.

The EdReady program was primarily designed by the National Repository of Online Courses, with the financial backing of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to help college-bound students avoid remedial coursework when they attend college. MTDA made the EdReady math program also available to teachers and administrators throughout the pre-K and K-12 system in Montana for free. Montana students, from elementary to adult learners, became the first in the nation to use this innovative tool on a statewide basis.
During the first three years of its implementation, EdReady Montana has helped incoming college freshmen boost their scores on college math placement exams, determined algebra readiness for middle school students and helped high school students stay on track in math classes. The program also has assisted adult learners across the state in preparing for the high school equivalency test and college-level math courses, enrolling more than 51,000 students and adult learners.

“The first three studies tracking more than a thousand students who completed the EdReady program clearly show faster and higher math achievement gains than any other tutoring tool,” said Roberta Evans, dean of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. “We must remember that each data point represents a real Montana student who has overcome the barrier of previous math struggles to advance successfully and with newfound confidence toward his or her dreams.”

Since its inception, MTDA has implemented EdReady Montana in more than 290 schools statewide, including higher education, secondary and adult learning centers. Currently, 45 percent of middle schools and well over 50 percent of Montana high schools, two-year colleges, four-year universities, tribal colleges and adult education centers use EdReady Montana.

The MTDA team also has trained hundreds of teachers, counselors and school administrators on how to successfully implement the program in their schools and with their students.

“By supporting this opportunity for Montana students, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation is enabling our agile and innovative P-20 education system to model excellence and lead the nation in yet another area,” Evans said.

The program’s impact on Montana schools has received national attention. Inspired in part by the success of EdReady Montana, 39 states now use the program in individual schools, districts or learning centers statewide, including Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, South Carolina and New Jersey.

The EdReady Montana team has conducted implementation sessions at the National NROC Member Conference, as well as training sessions for schools, districts and states in Denver, with a second session scheduled for Chattanooga, Tennessee, in October.

The overwhelming success of the original EdReady Math Remediation Program inspired a renewed dialogue between Bob Currie, executive director of the Montana Digital Academy, Gary Lopez, CEO of the National Repository of Online Courses, and the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to deepen the use of the program in the pre-K, K-12 and higher education systems; expand EdReady to include English; and adapt the existing EdReady curriculum and customized remediation software to assist employers and employees through a new program called JobReady.

“Since we first launched the EdReady Project, I have been consistently amazed at the versatility that the tool has shown in helping students at a variety of levels overcome their mathematical challenges,” Currie said. “Now we are poised to expand our existing model to meet 21st-century needs of students and employers nationwide.

“We at MTDA are extremely pleased and honored by the confidence that the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation has shown through its continued support of EdReady Montana.”
Finally, the program’s supporters have plans to create an EdReady research and training center on the UM campus.

“While the work of EdReady Montana began with college math readiness, the expansion of the program into the PK-12 system, and inclusion of the English and JobReady components, has made EdReady a bridge that connects our entire education system to careers and job creators helping to increase the pool of qualified employees for employers across the state,” said Mike Halligan, executive director of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.

“We are proud to partner with the Montana Digital Academy and the National Repository of Online Courses to expand this highly successful academic readiness program to meet the needs of our students and employers,” he said. “The five-year, $3.5 million grant provides stable funding to allow Bob Currie and his team to fully implement their vision for the EdReady Montana program.”


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**Contact:** Robert Currie, Montana Digital Academy executive director, 406-529-5029, [robert.currie@montanadigitalacademy.org](mailto:robert.currie@montanadigitalacademy.org); Mike Halligan, Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation executive director, 406-370-6551, [mhalligan@washcorp.com](mailto:mhalligan@washcorp.com); Rachel Brumfield, UM Foundation marketing coordinator, 406-243-5691, [rachel.brumfield@mso.umt.edu](mailto:rachel.brumfield@mso.umt.edu).
A University of Montana team has been awarded nearly $3 million from the National Science Foundation to develop an...
innovative, interdisciplinary graduate training program focused on interactions among food, energy and water.

The program, “UM BRIDGES: Bridging Divides across the Food, Energy and Water Nexus,” will combine new interdisciplinary course offerings, workshops and internships, international experiences and cutting-edge research to educate future leaders at the food-energy-water nexus and cement UM’s status as a leader in this realm.

“Montana is an ideal laboratory to examine connections and tradeoffs related to food, energy and water, given the state’s large fossil fuel and renewable energy resources, agriculture’s position as a leading industry and water user, and the importance of water resources to both ecosystems and communities,” said Assistant Program Director Andrew Wilcox.

Graduate students will work with UM faculty to conduct research on regionally and internationally important topics, such as tradeoffs between food and energy production in river and rangeland systems; energy transitions and implications for food and water; climate variability, drought and agricultural systems; and tribal and indigenous issues at the food-energy-water nexus.

“This program is part of a new wave of thinking about graduate education,” said UM BRIDGES Program Director Laurie Yung. “This new approach seeks to train students to connect science and practice, to communicate with a range of audiences, and to move more seamlessly across traditional disciplinary boundaries.”

The award to UM is one of 16 grants – totaling $47 million – through NSF’s National Research Traineeship program, which encourages the development and implementation of bold, new, transformative models for graduate education in science, technology engineering and mathematics fields.

The UM BRIDGES program draws collaborating faculty with expertise across a range of social, physical and biological science disciplines from the College of Forestry and Conservation, College of Humanities and Sciences, School of Journalism, Missoula College and Salish Kootenai College.
The program will begin enrolling graduate students in fall 2017. Financial support, including stipends, tuition, travel and other research support, are available to students.

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**Contact:** Laurie Yung, UM BRIDGES program director, 406-370-7335, laurie.yung@umontana.edu; Andrew Wilcox, UM associate professor, Department of Geosciences, 406-243-4761, andrew.wilcox@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – A University of Montana philanthropy class will grant a total of $10,000 to local nonprofits, with a minimum award of $2,000 and a maximum award of $7,000. Eligible nonprofits are welcome to apply by noon Friday, Nov. 4.

The annual fall class, Engaging Social Responsibility through Philanthropy, teaches community building and entrepreneurial giving strategies to address social issues and meet local needs. It engages students in a philanthropic experience by allowing them to review applications and disburse grants. The class receives its $10,000 grant from the Learning by Giving Foundation, which promotes undergraduate study of...
philanthropy at colleges and universities nationwide.

“This class opened up my eyes and taught me just how intricate and in-depth the world of giving is,” one student participant said. “This experience has provided me with such a unique opportunity to learn and has opened up my eyes permanently to this aspect of the world.”

The awards will enhance the Missoula community through benefiting local nonprofits. The class focuses on giving its monetary donations to nonprofits that operate within Missoula County. This year the class decided to use the funds to address needs relating to mental health, suicide prevention and youth programming. Recipients for fall 2015 included Native Generational Change, Garden City Harvest and Youth Homes.

Application forms and a list of criteria are available online at http://www.umt.edu/civic-engagement/nonprofit-studies/learning-by-giving.php.

For more information call UM’s Office for Civic Engagement Associate Director Colleen Kane at 406-243-5128 or email colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Colleen Kane, associate director, UM Office for Civic Engagement, 406-243-5128, colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Montana Public Radio has created a series of children’s programs called “Kids Like You and Me” that gives children who are differently abled opportunities to talk about their differences, including how it feels to be excluded, mocked or bullied – or accepted.

The goal of “Kids Like You and Me” is to foster empathy, compassion and acceptance through personal stories and educational information. Producers for the series are Annie Garde, MTPR director of children’s programming, and Chérie Newman, MTPR arts and culture producer.

Six episodes of “Kids Like You and Me” have been broadcast during MTPR’s popular children’s programs “Pea Green Boat” and “The
Children’s Corner.” Each episode also is available online at http://mtpr.org/term/kids-you-and-me and via podcast at http://mtpr.org/rss.

The episodes feature kids talking about Williams Syndrome, megalencephaly, hearing loss, kindness, social isolation and bullies.

“I had never heard of Williams Syndrome or megalencephaly,” said Newman, whose grant proposal won the initial funding from the Greater Montana Foundation. “I’ve enjoyed working on the project with Annie and have learned something new with each episode.”

Garde hopes that “kids – and grownups – who hear this series will think, ‘Oh I understand now. That kid isn’t weird. She has thoughts and feelings just like mine. I’m going to be a better friend to her. She really is a kid like you and me.’”

All episodes of “Kids Like You and Me” are a free resource for parents, caregivers and teachers who want to begin or moderate relevant conversations.

The Greater Montana Foundation funded the first five episodes of “Kids Like You and Me.” Stephanie Frostad, an artist from Missoula, contributed to funding for the sixth episode. Montana Public Radio is seeking program sponsors and grant funding for future episodes in the series, which has received accolades from many listeners, teachers and parents.

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**Contact:** Chérie Newman, arts and culture producer, Montana Public Radio, 406-370-1069, cherie.newman@umontana.edu.
New Montana Public Radio Series Gives Voice to Differently Abled Children

UM News - University Of Montana

University of Montana
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812
Phone: (406) 243-2522
news@umontana.edu
UM to Host Faculty Panels on 2016 Presidential Election

October 14, 2016

MISSOULA – The Department of Political Science at the University of Montana will host two faculty panels about the 2016 presidential election in coming weeks.

The panels are co-sponsored by the Davidson Honors College, the Global Leadership Initiative, Pi Sigma Alpha Epsilon Mu (the political science honors society), Montana Model UN and the Project on American Democracy and Citizenship.

A panel about foreign policy and the election will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, in the third-floor University Center Theater. The presenters and their topics will be:

- Karen Ruth Adams, “U.S. Power and Role in the World.”
- Abhishek Chatterjee, “Trade/Economic Policies.”
- Anna Conley, “U.S. Compliance with International Law.”
- Brock Tessman, “Risk Propensity and Foreign Policy.”
A panel about U.S. domestic issues and the election will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, in the UC Theater. The presenters and their topics will be:

- Christopher Muste, “Pre-election Polling, Electoral College.”
- Jeff Greene, “The Economy and the Election.”
- Lee Banville, “Media Coverage and ‘Post-Truth’ Politics.”
- Anthony Johnstone, “Legal Implications (Supreme Court, Civil Rights, etc.)

For more information email karen.adams@umontana.edu or call 406-243-2721.

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Contact: Karen Ruth Adams, associate professor and department chair, UM Department of Political Science, 406-243-2721, karen.adams@mso.umt.edu.
UM News

UM, Partners Land $20M Grant to Address Native American Health Disparities

October 13, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana and its partners recently received a five-year, $20 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to address health disparities facing Native American communities in Montana and Alaska.

Faculty members Kari
Harris, Erin Semmens and Tony Ward from UM’s School of Public and Community Health Sciences and Lisa Blank from UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences are part of the grant.

“This award underscores the importance of collaboration between academic institutions that bring unique expertise together to address critical health disparities for Native American communities in Montana and Alaska,” said Reed Humphrey, dean of UM’s College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. “Of note is the central mission of the award – creating capacity that endures.”

Along with UM, partnering institutions include Montana State University in Bozeman; Blackfeet Community College in Browning; the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; the University of Alaska, Anchorage; the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; and Alaska’s Southcentral Foundation.

The American Indian-Alaska Native Clinical and Translational Research Program is under the direction of co-principal investigators Allen Harmsen of MSU and Bert Boyer of UAF.

The program’s mission is to increase the capacity of Montana and Alaska institutions and researchers to address health disparities that Native communities experience. It seeks to strengthen Montana’s and Alaska’s clinical and translational research infrastructure through continued development of shared facilities, intellectual resources, research collaborations, focused working groups and training opportunities.

The program also strives to increase the number of mentors while developing the careers of clinical investigators in Native health disparities research in Montana and Alaska and expand and support sustainable and culturally responsible community-engaged research that will mitigate health disparities in those communities.

As part of the program, UM researchers will be supported through core areas on the Missoula campus focused on community engagement, professional development, pilot projects and research design. Within these areas, researchers will be provided mentorship opportunities toward building independent, self-sustaining clinical research programs.

Specific funding opportunities will focus on project development awards, pilot awards, sabbaticals, diversity supplements, travel awards and community grants. Funding also will support several new hires within the School of
Public and Community Health Sciences and the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences.

Contact: Kari Harris, professor, UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences, 406-243-4685, kari.harris@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana chemistry Professor Michael DeGrandpre and his Sunburst Sensors team won an XPRIZE last year. He will discuss the evolution of the sensor that made it all possible on Tuesday, Oct. 18, as part UM’s Provost’s Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series.

DeGrandpre will present “From Sewer Pipe to the XPRIZE: The Evolution of a Chemical Sensor” at 5 p.m. in the Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

DeGrandpre became fascinated with science and chemistry after ruining his mother’s card table with an incendiary chemical reaction at age 10. His interests were encouraged and developed at Helena’s C.R. Anderson Junior High School and Capital High School. He enrolled in chemical engineering at Montana State University in 1981 and then went on to obtain a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1990.

His UW research focused on fiber optic-based chemical sensors. He used this knowledge as a postdoctoral scholar at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts to develop a successful CO2 sensor (the Submersible Autonomous Moored Instrument, or SAMI) for marine applications.
He came to UM in 1996 to – oddly enough – continue his ocean-focused research. The SAMI sensor technology has been a career-long endeavor, with the development and commercialization of related sensors and using the sensors in aquatic environments to improve understanding of the global carbon cycle and ocean acidification.

DeGrandpre’s career has benefited from many excellent teachers, professors and research mentors and by associating with talented engineers. His current research is focused on the Arctic Ocean carbon cycle and development of an autonomous alkalinity sensor.

For more information about DeGrandpre and the XPRIZE, see http://bit.ly/2e63W33.

Contact: UM Provost’s Office, 406-243-4689, officeoftheprovost@umontana.edu.
October 12, 2016

**MISSOULA** – Garage sale vendors and shoppers are invited to the University of Montana for the “World’s Largest Garage Sale” from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, in the UM Parking Garage.

The garage sale is hosted by the UM Advocates, a campus service organization. It will be held on the first two levels of the parking garage next to the Mansfield Library on the east side of campus.

Vendors can rent two parking spaces for $25 and additional spaces for $10 each. Each parking space is 9 feet by 18 feet. Vendor setup begins at 7:30 a.m.

More than 50 UM Advocates members volunteer for campus functions such as Homecoming and new-student orientation. They host the “World’s Largest Garage Sale” as a fundraiser every autumn and spring semester. Sales attract nearly 100 sellers and thousands of shoppers.

Vendor registration forms are available at The Source in the University Center.
For more information call UM Advocates student coordinators Jamie Hewitt or Alec Jones at 406-243-5874 or email advocates@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Jamie Hewitt, UM Advocates student coordinator, 406-243-5874, advocates@mso.umt.edu; Alec Jones, UM Advocates student coordinator, 406-243-5874, advocates@mso.umt.edu.
October 11, 2016

The University of Montana Foundation recently has received a pledge from Bill Franke and his family in the amount of $24 million that will benefit the College of Forestry and Conservation and the Global Leadership
UM on Track to Receive Largest Single Gift in its History - UM News - University Of Montana

Initiative. This will become the largest single gift ever received by the University of Montana, pending Montana University System Board of Regents approval as described below.

The Franke family has a history of investing in higher education and in the past has made major gifts to Stanford University and Northern Arizona University. They have been associated with our state for many years, own a home in the area and have had the opportunity to spend time on the UM campus. During the past six years, the Frankes have met with professors, students, administrators and alumni and have developed a strong connection to the University. The family’s gift is focused on conserving Montana’s natural resources and expanding the global perspective of our students.

In consideration of this gift, the University is requesting to rename both the College of Forestry and Conservation and Global Leadership Initiative in honor of the Franke family’s generosity. The University has begun its process of vetting the naming proposal within the UM campus community. The process includes approval by the forestry college faculty and GLI oversight board, as well as pending approval by the Faculty Senate, UM president and provost. If approved, the proposal will then be submitted to the Board of Regents for their consideration. When the Board of Regents addresses this item in November, the public will have the opportunity to participate in the process.

In the weeks to come, the University and UM Foundation look forward to sharing more about the Franke family and their inspiration for giving, as well as providing further details about their gift.

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Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-830-6098, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Curry Health Center’s International Travel Clinic at the University of Montana will host two informational roundtables from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, and Thursday, Oct. 27, in the Copper Commons on the second floor of the University Center.

Curry Health Center’s International Travel Clinic offers one-on-one appointments for UM students, faculty and staff to prepare them for travel outside the United States. The roundtable panel will include International Travel Clinic nurses as well as students and faculty members who have used the clinic before heading abroad.

“The roundtables are open to everyone who is interested in international travel,” said Curry Health Center travel nurse Dionne Peterson.

From student groups traveling for class to individuals heading abroad on personal trips, the International Travel Clinic provides important information to help keep travelers healthy while they explore. Travelers receive recommendations, tips on health and safety and other medical advice based on their specific itinerary.
“The International Travel Clinic is unique because all the services related to travel are right here,” said Mary Kleschen, medical director at Curry Health Center. “Education, information about health and safety, all immunizations, medications for malaria, mosquito bed nets, insect repellant, water purification tablets, nurses and physicians and health care providers who specialize in travel are all here working together to provide excellent, comprehensive care for travelers.

“Travel provides an outstanding educational opportunity,” Kleschen said. “Taking steps to assure health and safety and to reduce the risk of illness or injury when traveling allow for the travelers to fully immerse themselves.”

To learn more about the clinic visit http://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/medical/Travelers-Health.php. To make an appointment with the International Travel Clinic, call 406-243-4330. For additional questions or information on the program or email Jessica Vizzutti, Curry Health Center media specialist, at jessica.vizzutti@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Jessica Vizzutti, UM Curry Health Center media specialist, 406-243-6958, jessica.vizzutti@umontana.edu.
UM to Hold Second Chibi Chibi Comic Con

October 17, 2016

MISSOULA – Fans of comics, video games and Japanese pop culture can come together at the second Chibi Chibi Comic Con, hosted by the University of Montana’s Student Involvement Network, Friday through Sunday, Oct. 28-30.

Events will take place from 4 to 11 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday on the third floor of the University Center.

Chibi Chibi Comic Con will include tabletop, card and video game tournaments, along with a vendor room, throughout the weekend. It also will feature workshops on a variety of topics, including history of animation, Q&A with a comic writer, cosplay creation and how to create a comic book page.

The convention will hold a cosplay competition for attendees to dress up and act as the characters they are depicting. Contestants will be judged on both their costume and portrayal of the character.

The event is open to the public and costs $7 for one day and $12 for a three-day pass or $5 for one day and $10
for a three-day pass with a Griz Card.

For more information and a schedule of events, visit http://www.umt.edu/uc/comic-con.

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**Contact:** Evan Fossen, UM Student Involvement Network, 406-243-2049, evan.fossen@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A history professor from Ireland's University of Limerick will discuss “Irish America and the 1916 Rising” as part of the 2016-17 President’s Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

Ruán O'Donnell, a leading research scholar in the field of modern Irish history, will deliver the lecture at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, in the University Center Ballroom. The lecture is part of the American Conference for Irish Studies.

O'Donnell also will lead the seminar “Researching Irish Republican Army Prisoners in England, 1968-1998” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. the same day in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. The lecture and seminar both are free and open to the public.

Originally from Dublin, O'Donnell received bachelor's and master's degrees from University College Dublin and a doctorate from the Australian National University. He has lived and worked as a journalist and teacher in Limerick since 1998.

He teaches courses on the International History of the 20th Century; the Irish Conflict 1948-1998; Modern Ireland;
Ireland: Revolution and Independence 1898-1972; and the History of Modern Australia.

O’Donnell’s primary research interests include Irish radicalism worldwide and the history of international pro-Irish Republican networks. His early research focused on the United Irishmen in Ireland, Australia, Britain, France and North America. His more recent work includes a number of linked projects featuring the Irish Republican Army from 1948 to 1998.

O’Donnell has edited scholarly anthologies, and he works as a commissioning editor for two academic series in Ireland. He writes for The Irish Times and serves as the director of the Irish Manuscripts Commission. He is the official historian of the Robert Emmet Association.

Irish Studies at UM hosts O’Donnell in conjunction with the 32nd annual American Conference of Irish Studies – Western Regional. The conference’s theme is “Her Exiled Children: Ireland and Irish America.”

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 Hold Live Webcast on US-China Relations

October 10, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center is honored to bring the National Committee on U.S.-China Relation’s 10th annual “CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections” live webcast to Missoula on Tuesday, Oct. 18.

The program, co-sponsored by UM’s Mansfield Center and School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, begins at 5 p.m. in Todd Building Room 210 at UM and is free and open to the public. Those interested should RSVP at http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/events/asiaforum.php or call 406-243-2988.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will lead an expert panel in a live “town hall” meeting broadcast remotely to audiences in more than 80 locations nationwide, including Missoula. He will answer questions regarding current and historical challenges and opportunities for U.S.-China relations.

Kissinger served as national security adviser from 1969 to 1975 and secretary of state from 1973 to 1977. He also taught at Harvard University and currently is chairman of Kissinger Associates Inc., an international consulting firm. As national security adviser, Kissinger played a crucial role in arranging President Nixon’s 1972 visit to China.
which opened the door to the re-establishment of U.S.-China relations.

In addition to the national webcast, Eric Schluessel, director of UM’s East Asian Studies program, will be onsite to discuss the webcast and to examine the impact of China’s relations with its regional neighbors, particularly in Central Asia.

Schluessel graduated from Harvard University with a doctorate in history and East Asian language and now teaches courses in the history and politics of China at UM. His research focuses on the social history of Xinjiang, a Muslim-majority region in Chinese Central Asia, during the Qing dynasty and 20th century. Schluessel advises students in frontier history, comparative empire and colonialism, and the histories of China and Central Asia.

“CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections” is part of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations’ efforts to help Americans better understand the challenges faced by U.S.-China relations. This year marks the committee’s 50th anniversary.

Established in 1966, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations is a nonprofit educational organization that encourages understanding of China and the United States between citizens of both countries.

UM’s Mansfield Center houses programs that focus on the peoples and cultures of modern Asia, promote better understanding of U.S. relations with Asia and foster ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield.

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Contact: Caitlin Sager, administrative assistant, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.
Longtime Professor Returns to Join UM Office of Research and Creative Scholarship

October 10, 2016

MISSOULA – L. Scott Mills has returned to the University of Montana to serve as associate vice president of research for global change and sustainability in the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship.

From 1995 to 2013, Mills was a professor in UM’s Wildlife Biology Program. In 2013, he was recruited to North Carolina State University to coordinate a cross-campus initiative on global environmental change and human well-being.

Now back at UM, Mills will continue his research program in applied population ecology and global environmental change.
He will provide campus leadership to foster wide-reaching collaborations that catalyze cross-cutting, interdisciplinary research and outreach. Mills will work on projects that bridge UM departments and colleges, as well as government and nonprofit collaborators, by leveraging the world-class strengths of UM in multifaceted scientific, cultural and societal aspects of global change and sustainability.

“After three years of direct experience in how large research universities operate, I am thrilled to bring that experience back to UM to help build on our world-class research strengths in the realm of global change science and application,” Mills said.

As an applied wildlife population biologist, Mills integrates field studies, DNA-based genetic analyses and computer models in his research to understand how wild animal populations and their associated ecosystems respond to human-caused global changes.

“Associate Vice President for Research Mills will bring an increased vision for the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship in terms of the global impact of the research our faculty conduct,” said UM Vice President for Research Scott Whittenburg. “A striking feature of research we do is our international reach into countries on all continents, including Antarctica. Scott is going to help the University of Montana in becoming recognized as a national leader in global research.”

Mills received a National Science Foundation Early Career award and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for his work building wildlife conservation science in Bhutan. He has been continuously funded by NSF for the past 18 years, mentored 24 graduate student and published more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Mills also wrote an applied population ecology textbook used in more than 150 classrooms worldwide.

“We are extremely excited to have Scott return to the Wildlife Biology Program at University of Montana in his new capacity as associate vice president of research,” said Chad Bishop, director of UM’s Wildlife Biology Program. “Scott was instrumental in facilitating the program’s past success through his research, teaching and commitment to helping others. By all accounts, he is an exceptional scientist and mentor, and his contributions will undoubtedly strengthen the program as we look to the future.”
Much of Mills’ research has been grounded in Montana and the northwestern U.S., but it also involves strong international engagement. Current ongoing research collaborations include Scotland, Portugal, Sweden, India and Bhutan. Mills helped to found the Bhutan Ecological Society and currently serves as the scientific member of the Advisory Board of the Bhutan Foundation.

UM’s Office of Research and Creative Scholarship supports the educational and research mission of the University through advocacy and advancement of basic and applied research, creative work and academic scholarship, and fosters an environment where research, scholarly activities, entrepreneurship and economic development thrive.

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**Contact:** Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president of research and creative scholarship, 406-243-6670, scott.whittenburg@umontana.edu; Chad Bishop, director, UM Wildlife Biology Program, 406-243-4374, chad.bishop@umontana.edu.
UM to Host Ninth Annual ‘Pianissimo!’ Concerts Oct. 14-15

October 10, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Music will present the ninth annual “Pianissimo!” concerts at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 14-15, in UM’s Music Recital Hall. This high-energy show includes two different programs, nine pianos and more than 25 pianists.

The concerts feature piano solos, duets, trios, quartets and at one point 10 pianists performing on five different pianos. School of Music Professor Christopher Hahn describes “Pianissimo!” as a Missoula original.

“It has achieved its popularity with good reason,” Hahn said. “It’s a fun-filled, high-energy evening of music that crosses all genres and involves multiple pianos played by 25 pianists. We definitely go all out on this one. It’s basically a variety show that features the incredible diversity of the piano and its performers.

“It’s quite a sound,” he continued. “The coordination of such a feat is pretty tremendous – you really have to see and hear it to believe it.”

The concerts include a wide variety of music and style ranging from Mozart and Stravinsky to Copland and...
Coldplay, as well as other popular hits. The pianists include students, faculty members and familiar faces from the community.

“The program is designed to please any and all audience members,” Hahn said. “Let’s just say I always like a few surprises, and you might see a local politician or two in the mix.”

“Pianissimo!” is a benefit concert for the UM Keyboard Society and is the first concert in the “Celebrate Piano” series. Funds raised will bring in guest artists for the “Celebrate Piano” series, go toward piano student scholarships and conference attendance and help fund maintenance and care of the pianos at UM.

Tickets to “Pianissimo!” cost $10 for students, $20 for seniors age 60 and older and $25 for the general public. They can be purchased online at [http://www.griztix.com](http://www.griztix.com), at the UMArts Box Office or by calling 406-243-4581. Purchasing tickets in advance is highly recommended, as shows tend to sell out.

For more information on “Pianissimo!” or any of the five concerts in the Celebrate Piano series, call Hahn at 406-243-6490.

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**Contact:** Christopher Hahn, professor, UM School of Music, 406-243-6490, christopher.hahn@umontana.edu.
HAMILTON – The Bitterroot Community Symposium will be held at Bitterroot College University of Montana from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20.

The event, also sponsored by the Montana Campus Compact, Bitterroot Collective Impact and Service Year, will identify and address local issues to discuss ways nonprofits, local government and community members can meet community needs through collective impact – the collaboration of key sectors as an innovative way of addressing and solving community issues.

The schedule of events features a keynote address by Deb Halliday, senior policy adviser for Montana’s Office of Public Instruction; a networking lunch during which nonprofit representatives can meet with interested potential volunteers; two rounds of breakout sessions that discuss various topics related to public communication, national service, grant writing, and engaging students and educators in community service; and an example of collective impact in Montana through Graduation Matters Montana.

All community members, educators, students, nonprofit staff, board members and elected officials interested
learning more about collective impact and its potential for creating change in the Bitterroot Valley are encouraged to attend. Registration costs $15 and includes lunch.

To register for the Bitterroot Community Symposium and view the full schedule of events, visit Bitterroot College’s website at http://www.umt.edu/bitterroot-college.

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Contact: Kate Johnson, Bitterroot College AmeriCorps VISTA, 406-375-0100, kjohnson@mtcompact.org.
Moss Adams Student Lounge Opens to UM Business Students

October 07, 2016

MISSOULA – The School of Business Administration at the University of Montana celebrated the grand opening of the Moss Adams Student Lounge in the Gallagher Business Building on Oct. 6.

The much-needed lounge renovation was funded by partners from the Moss Adams Portland office who also are School of Business Administration alumni: Jennifer Price and Chris Hansen, as well as the Moss Adams Foundation under the leadership of Rick Anderson. The grand opening showcased the generosity of the Moss Adams accounting and consulting firm, donors and community partners who made the renovation possible.

Since its construction 20 years ago, the student lounge has been well-used to boost student productivity and community, but was in desperate need of an update. In response to a survey of current business students' needs, the remodeled space incorporates more tables, chairs, charging stations, better Wi-fi and extra room for laptops, thanks to business alumnus Brian Hughes from Missoula's Office City, who helped envision and install the furniture.

The new lounge also boasts a vibrant Missoula Valley mural that adds color.
and energy to the space. The mural was created by Missoula artist Amber Bushnell, an alumna of UM’s School of Media Arts, and Todd Taylor from Big Prints Plus, who graduated from the School of Business Administration.

“This generous gift is so important today,” said Christopher Shook, dean of the School of Business Administration. “It supports our top accounting students, Career Development program and modernizes the space where our community of students study and gather. I am grateful that alumni and friends from Moss Adams chose to invest in these important areas to deepen our relationship with the company and elevate the School of Business Administration.”

Every year, Career Development program helps position 2,000 business students for job placement by teaching workforce skills such as networking, interviewing, resume writing, business dining etiquette and appropriate business attire. The program also works to build relationships between students and future employers, and opens an important recruiting channel for student internships at top-tier companies. Eighty percent of UM business students are placed in an internship before graduation thanks to the deep partnerships with companies like Moss Adams.

Additionally, Moss Adams’ gift inaugurated a new scholarship for accounting students to help decrease the debt load of obtaining a college education. The scholarship was awarded for the first time this year to a senior accounting student from Seattle.

For more information on how to support the School of Business Administration, call Kate Jennings, senior director of development, 406-243-4569 or email kate.jennings@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Tammy Yedinak, executive assistant to the dean, School of Business Administration, 406-243-6195, tamara.yedinak@umontana.edu.

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UM to Host Seattle Singer/Songwriter Alumnus

October 07, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Alumni Association and UM Entertainment Management Program will host Seattle singer/songwriter and UM graduate Eric Tollefson at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, in the Dennison Theatre.

Tollefson has shared stages with G. Love and Special Sauce, Robert Randolph and The Family Band, Donavon Frankenreiter, RayLand Baxter, Paula Cole and more. His albums, “The Sum of Parts” and “The Polar Ends,” blend folk, pop, blues and rock in an emotional collage.

Tollefson's latest album, “This is Why We Can't Have Nice Things,” will be released Feb. 28, 2017, and will be available pre-release at the Oct. 21 concert. Collaborators on the album include Josiah Johnson (The Head & The Heart), Andrew Joslyn (Mackelmore, Odesza), Eric Heywood (The Pretenders, Ray LaMontagne, Son Volt) and Matt Hopper (Matt Hopper & The Roman Candles), and it was produced by Justin Armstrong (Dave Matthews, Audioslave, Death Cab for Cutie).

Student tickets cost $6, and general admission costs $11. For more information call Thomas Webster, UM Dennison Theatre director, at 406-243-2853 or email thomas.webster@umontana.edu.
For a sampling of Tollefson’s music, visit http://www.etollefsonmusic.com/contact.

Contact: Thomas Webster, UM Dennison Theatre director, 406-243-2853, thomas.webster@umontana.edu.
UM to Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day

October 07, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will recognize Indigenous Peoples Day with three days of events Monday through Wednesday, Oct. 10-12, to recognize and commemorate the contributions of Native people.

All events, hosted by UM’s Student Involvement Network, are free, and members of the public are invited to attend. A schedule follows.

Monday, Oct. 10

- 7:30-9 a.m.: Opening prayer/song and teepee raising, UM Oval.
- 11 a.m.-noon: Peaceful march led by Indigenous Visions Network President LaNada WarJack, from the north side of the Van Buren Street Footbridge to the UM Oval.
- Noon-1 p.m.: Round dance, UM Oval.
- Noon-4 p.m.: Indian taco sale, Payne Family Native American Center Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place.
- 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.: Tours, Payne Family Native American Center.
- 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m.: Hourly Star Story showings, Payne Family Native American Center Star Gazing Room.
Tuesday, Oct. 11

- 8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Film screening, "Personal Reflections on Columbus Day," Payne Family Native American Center.
- 12:30-1:30 p.m.: Hoop dance, Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place, Payne Family Native American Center.
- 2-4 p.m.: Beading Circle, Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place, Payne Family Native American Center.
- 5-7 p.m.: Traditional dance learning session led by Naomi Billedeaux, Indigenous Dance Academy director, and Antonio Morsette, Branch Center student coordinator, Payne Family Native American Center.
- 7-9 p.m.: Campfire stories, Payne Family Native American Center fire ring.

Wednesday, Oct. 12

- 8 a.m.-5 p.m.: Film screening, "Personal Reflections on Columbus Day," Payne Family Native American Center.
- Noon-1 p.m.: Native “Get Out the Vote” rally, Missoula County Fairgrounds, 1101 South Ave. W.
- 4-5 p.m.: Closing ceremony and flute song, performed by Blackfeet Nation’s Troy DeRoche, Missoula Art Museum, 335 N. Pattee St.
- 6 p.m.: “Rez Out the Vote” live performance with 1491s comedy troupe and special guest state Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau, Urey Lecture Hall.

For more information on Indigenous Peoples Day at UM, call event coordinator Antonio Morsette at 406-243-5622 (office) or 406-945-0069 (cell) or email antonio.morsette@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Antonio Morsette, Indigenous Peoples Day event coordinator, 406-243-5622 (office), 406-945-0069 (cell), antonio.morsette@mso.umt.edu.
UM Offers New Ph.D. Program in Public and Community Health Sciences

October 06, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana has established a new doctoral program in public health.

Approved by the Montana Board of Regents during its last meeting, the new Ph.D. program will train highly qualified public health specialists. The degree will be offered by UM’s School of Public and Community Health Sciences.

“This degree capitalizes on the existing certificate and master’s level degree programs offered at UM and responds to the need for highly qualified public health specialists in the state,” said Tony Ward, chair of the School of Public and Community Health Sciences. “This program also meets the workforce needs of a public health field that is rapidly growing nationally and globally.”

He said that while the Zika virus epidemic has recently received media publicity throughout the world, populations continue to struggle with common public health issues associated with infectious diseases, climate change, overpopulation and the lack of basic resources such as clean water.

Closer to home, Montana faces many unique challenges related to the rural nature of the population. Public health
issues linked to resource extraction, health disparities among the state’s Native American populations and the lack of access to basic medical services for many rural Montanans are significant local and regional public health issues.

“These global and local issues all underscore the need for new public health professionals to combat the numerous existing and emerging problems impacting human health,” Ward said.

Applications for the first class of up to five students are currently under review for entry into the program for spring semester 2017. The next cohort of up to five students will be accepted in fall 2017.

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**Contact:** Tony Ward, associate professor and chairman, UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences, 406-243-4092, tony.ward@mso.umt.edu.
UM Productions to Host Common Kings Concert in Missoula

October 05, 2016

**Update:** The location of this concert has moved to Monk’s Bar, located at 225 Ryman St.

**MISSOULA** – Common Kings will bring their array of head-rocking beats, feel-good vibes and emotional fever to Missoula on Wednesday, Oct. 12. The concert will be held at Monk’s Bar, located at 225 Ryman St.

Tickets for the show, which is co-presented by University of Montana Productions and 1111
Presents, cost $17 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. Attendees must be 18 or older.

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.
UM Student Wins Musical Competition, Tours Washington State

October 05, 2016

MISSOULA – Michael Zarling, a pianist and University of Montana Pharm.D. Program student, delivered a noteworthy performance at the 27th annual Francis Walton Competition in Seattle and won a tour to play throughout western Washington.

The competition, held last summer and hosted by the Ladies Musical Club of Seattle, brought together 25 classical artists ages 20-35 from across the western states. Zarling became one of the four soloists to win the competition with his performance of “Poem” by Arno Babajanian and “Spanish Rhapsody” by Franz Liszt. Along with the tour, he received a $3,000 cash prize.

A Minnesota native, Zarling began piano lessons at the age of 5 and moved to Helena with his family in 2006. He continued piano in UM’s School of Music as a pre-pharmacy undergraduate at UM, studying under professors Christopher Hahn and Steven Hesla.

Zarling said even as a pharmacy student, the professors always allowed him to participate in their recitals, concert series and national conferences.
“They were also supportive every time I applied to and prepared for a competition,” Zarling said. “Dr. Hahn was actually the one who brought the LMC competition to my attention and encouraged me to go for it. Overall, they’re a great group of people.”

In 2012, Zarling became the first non-music major to win UM’s Concerto/Aria Competition, and he placed in the 2009, 2013 and 2015 Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras competitions. He also recently was an alternate national finalist in the Music Teachers National Association Steinway Piano competition.

Zarling said he heard about the LMC competition only a few weeks before the application deadline, so he used a recording he and his teacher made in January as a practice run for another competition. He was nervous because many finalists were completing a master’s or doctoral degree in music performance from some of the most prominent music schools in the country.

“I thought I was going to get owned by everyone else, so I decided that I’d just go and have fun and be grateful to share the same stage as these people (the finalists),” Zarling said. “The day of the competition I ended up having a fantastic performance to which the four judges really responded to, and the next thing I know I’m having to play in the winner’s concert later that night.”

During the five-day tour in September, Zarling performed for around 3,500 K-12 students at 16 different schools and at three formal concerts throughout Washington. He was accompanied by another soloist winner, a vocalist from Los Angeles who prepared her own repertoire, along with her collaborative pianist. They also had a live radio performance broadcasted by KING-FM in downtown Seattle.

Zarling said although the music tour was his first one and he had an exhausting few days travelling over 900 miles to perform at schools and concerts, the experience was amazing.

“Performing for the elementary students was my favorite part of the tour,” Zarling said. “Their mouths would drop when Lesley (the vocalist) started singing her opera pieces and some would cover their ears when she sang a high-pitched note. I was told that many kids would try to play piano in the air while I performed.”

Zarling currently lives in Billings, where he is finishing clinical rotations and his fourth and final year through UM’s Skaggs School of Pharmacy.

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**Contact:** Christopher Hahn, piano professor, UM School of Music, 406-243-3490, christopher.hahn@umontana.edu.
UM Hosts Clothing, Supply Drive for Standing Rock Reservation

October 04, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana is holding a clothing and supply drive for residents of Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota from now through Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Accepted supplies include bottled water, firewood, gloves, hats, scarves, beading supplies, tents and food. All donations should be brought to the University Center Game Room between 9 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday or from noon to midnight on weekends.

This is the first year for the drive, which will benefit the Oceti Sakowin and Sacred Stone camps in their fight for clean water as they prepare for the North Dakotan winter.

For more information visit the Facebook page at http://bit.ly/2dxQAfz.

Contact: Joseph Grady, UC Game Room program adviser, 406-243-5590, joseph.grady@mso.umt.edu.
UM Hosts Clothing, Supply Drive for Standing Rock Reservation - UM News - University Of Montana

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UM Blackstone LaunchPad Hosts Problem-Solving Competition

October 04, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana students attempting to solve campus, community and world problems will be rewarded – even when they fail – during the “99 Problems” event on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

UM’s Blackstone LaunchPad first asked students to embrace creative problem-solving by brainstorming problems and attempting real solutions with failure as an option. Now, 13 finalists are in the running to receive “failureships” or cash scholarships during Wednesday’s event.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the UM Oval, the public is invited to write their own problems on 99 red balloons. In addition, campus and community members are encouraged to vote for the official student-submitted problems on the Blackstone LaunchPad UM Facebook page, which is online at https://www.facebook.com/blackstonelaunchpaduniversityofmontana.

The first-place students will receive $750, second place earns $500, and third place will earn $250.

Blackstone LaunchPad UM is a startup consulting service for students, staff, faculty and alumni. 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.

For more information about the event, email Blackstone LaunchPad UM’s AmeriCorps volunteer Blake Cilwick at cilwick@mtcompact.org.

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**Contact:** Morgan Slemberger, marketing and operations manager, UM Blackstone LaunchPad, 406-243-5723, morgan.slemberger@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Author and University of Montana alumna Megan Kruse will present a lecture titled “What it Feels Like: Crafting Emotion in Fiction” on Friday, Oct. 14, at UM.

Kruse will lecture from noon to 12:50 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building Room 103B. She also will give a fiction reading at 7 p.m. in the Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall. Both events are free and open to the public.

“We invited Megan back to campus because she is a visionary writer and has accomplished much since she graduated from our program in 2010,” said Debra Magpie Earling, director of UM’s highly regarded Creative Writing Program. “We wish to offer our students the chance to meet a distinguished writer not long out of our program. Our students seek answers to many
pressing questions about the writing life and how to survive after graduate school. In today’s world, how do you negotiate and balance a life of work and still pursue your art? We’re thrilled to have one of our own return to us.”

Kruse’s debut novel, “Call Me Home,” was described by Booklist as “impressively forceful” and “vivid, precise and promising.” She was the recipient of a 2016 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award and was listed as one of the National Book Foundation’s “5 Under 35” for 2015.

Kruse grew up in the Pacific Northwest and currently lives in Olympia, Washington. She studied creative writing at Oberlin College and earned her Master of Fine Arts at UM. Her work has appeared widely in journals and anthologies, and “Call Me Home” was released from Hawthorne Books in March 2015. She teaches fiction at Eastern Oregon University’s Low-Residency MFA program, Hugo House and Gotham Writers Workshop.

Contact: Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu, http://hs.umt.edu/creativewriting.
Author to Present at UM Oct. 14 - UM News - University Of Montana

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MISSOULA – Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Neel Kashkari will host a town hall discussion about the economy and the role of the Federal Reserve at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, in the University Center North Ballroom at the University of Montana.

After opening remarks by UM President Royce Engstrom, Kashkari will ask questions about the risks big banks pose, investigate the role of the Federal Reserve and detail his major initiative to address the “Too Big to Fail” issue in the current economic climate. The discussion will be moderated by Washington Companies President and CEO Lawrence Simkins.

As president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Kashkari serves on the Federal Open Market Committee, bringing the bank's Ninth District’s perspective to monetary policy discussions in Washington, D.C.
In addition to his responsibilities as a monetary policymaker, Kashkari oversees bank operations, including supervision and regulation, and payments services. He previously worked as an aerospace engineer, served as assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and ran as a gubernatorial candidate in the state of California in 2014. In 2009, he received the Alexander Hamilton Award, the Treasury Department’s highest honor for distinguished service.

The town hall discussion at UM is free and open to the public, and a light reception will precede the event. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP for the event by filling out the online registration form at http://hs.umt.edu/hs/rsvp/default.php.

For more information contact Ian Withrow, media and information coordinator with the College of Humanities and Sciences, at 406-243-2683 or email ian.withrow@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Ian Withrow, media and information coordinator, College of Humanities and Sciences, 406-243-2683, ian.withrow@mso.umt.edu.
Rapper Snoop Dogg Brings ‘Puff Puff Pass Tour’ to Missoula

October 03, 2016

MISSOULA — Rap megastar Snoop Dogg and his Puff Puff Pass Tour Part 2 will make a stop at the Adams Center at the University of Montana on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Other performers include Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Warren G, Tha Dogg Pound, DJ Quick, Poona City Movement and LBC Movement.

Tickets cost between $35 and $55 and go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 7. They will be available online at http://www.griztix.com, by calling 1-888-MONTANA or at all GrizTix locations. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m.

Cordozar Calvin Broadus Jr., known professionally as Snoop Dogg – formerly called Snoop Doggy Dogg and Snoop Lion – is an American rapper and actor from Long Beach, California. His music career began in 1992 when he was discovered by Dr. Dre of N.W.A., and as a result was prominently featured throughout Dr. Dre’s solo debut album, “The Chronic.” Snoop has since sold over 23 million albums in the United States and 35 million albums worldwide.
Rapper Snoop Dogg Brings ‘Puff Puff Pass Tour’ to Missoula - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: UM Adams Center Box Office, 406-243-4051, griztix@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Norma Nickerson, a research professor and director of the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana, recently was appointed to serve on the board of directors for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Helena Branch.

Nickerson has 22 years of experience leading the ITRR and will join the Helena Branch board as a tourism and recreation expert. She researches and writes about Montana’s tourism and recreation industry, has produced hundreds of reports for the industry and has presented globally about Montana tourism.

Nickerson also has served on the International Travel and Tourism Research Association Board, the Greater Western Chapter of the Travel and Tourism Research Association board,
and the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board.

“This is going to be an incredible learning experience for me, but more importantly I am excited to be able to represent tourism and recreation at a level that hasn’t been represented before,” Nickerson said. “Tourism and recreation are one of the top industries in Montana in terms of jobs and entrepreneurship and yet because of the small size of these businesses, their voices are rarely heard. I hope to be able to bridge that gap through this appointment with the Helena Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.”

Nickerson received the Tom Boone Town and Gown award from UM in 2011; the University of Utah Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Outstanding Alumni Award in 2011; and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Western Chapter of the Travel and Tourism in 2011.

She will begin her first term on Jan. 1, 2017.

ITRR conducts travel and recreation research in Montana, with a primary focus on the nonresident travel survey conducted statewide.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis is one of 12 regional Reserve Banks that, with the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., make up the Federal Reserve System, the nation’s central bank. Helena Branch directors contribute regional perspectives on economic conditions as part of the Federal Reserve’s monitoring of the national economy and the formulation of monetary policy.

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**Contact:** Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana wildlife biology master’s degree candidate Lara Brenner recently was awarded $20,000 from the Summerlee Foundation to investigate the effects of hunting on mountain lions, which are also known as cougars.

Brenner, from Houston, will use a social-ecological approach to understand the public’s views of mountain lion hunting. She’ll also measure how stressed the cougars are by analyzing hormones in hair samples.

She is advised by Professor Elizabeth Covelli Metcalf in UM’s College of Forestry and
Conservation and also will work with Professor Creagh Breuner on the stress-hormone analysis and with Hugh Robinson, who directs the landscape analysis lab for Panthera.

“This is one of the first studies that looks at wildlife from a social-ecological perspective,” Metcalf said.

Brenner will conduct research in communities in several different states where cougar hunting restrictions vary. For example, in Montana hunting mountain lions with dogs is allowed while in Washington dogs are not allowed. Brenner will ask residents how hunting impacts the social tolerance for the species.

The Summerlee Foundation supports big cat research projects.

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**Contact:** Elizabeth Covelli Metcalf, UM associate professor of recreation management and human dimensions of natural resources, 406-243-4448, elizabeth.metcalf@umontana.edu.
UM Wildlife Biology Student Awarded $20,000 Grant to Study Mountain Lions - UM News - University Of Montana
$1.5 Million Gift Launches New Davidson Honors College Programs

October 03, 2016

MISSOULA – For more than 25 years, Ian and Nancy Davidson have championed honors education at the University of Montana. On Sept. 30 at the Davidson Honors College Homecoming celebration, the University announced the couple’s latest gift and invited others to join in supporting UM’s honors college.

With the Davidsons’ $1.5 million lead gift, DHC will launch two brand-new programs: the
Teaching, Research and Mentoring Fellows Program and the Honors Career Development Program.

The TRM Fellows Program will enable the honors college to recruit world-class postdoctoral fellows who will serve DHC students as exceptional classroom instructors and as dedicated research mentors.

The ideal TRM Fellow will be the epitome of the "teacher-scholar," using ongoing research to inform teaching and vice-versa. With research agendas that are both cross-disciplinary and relevant to society, they will teach courses that engage the full range of DHC students, from those studying the humanities to those majoring in the sciences and professional schools. Because fellowship terms are limited to two years, the TRM Fellows Program will regularly bring innovative ideas and fresh energy to the UM campus.

Housed in the newly renovated garden level of the DHC building, the Honors Career Development Program will prepare students for postcollegiate success. Throughout their four years at UM, program participants will have access to tailored career counseling sessions, career coaching workshops, graduate school selection and application support, exclusive networking events, internship placements, resume clinics and other programming to help them succeed at the highest level.

"Ian and Nancy's continued vision has enabled UM to develop one of the strongest honors colleges in the nation," said UM President Royce Engstrom. "With these distinctive new programs, we will engage students at the intellectual, professional and personal level. Their experience in DHC will be nothing short of transformative."

The Davidsons' gift will fund two postdoctoral fellowship positions over the course of six years, as well as a coordinator position for the Honors Career Development Program for a five-year period. The Davidsons have further committed to
match, dollar for dollar, contributions to support two additional postdoctoral TRM Fellow positions for six years.

“The Davidsons have once again shown their dedication to honors education at the University of Montana,” said Mickey Sogard, former chair of the UM Foundation board of trustees. “We thank them for their generosity and foresight, which has provided a wonderful opportunity for interested donors to double the size of their gifts and bring a new, innovative program to UM.”

With their support of the new programs, the Davidsons hope to inspire and motivate others to invest in the continued growth of the honors college.

“The Davidson Honors College has grown to the point where it’s really on the cusp of becoming one of the leading programs in the country,” said Nancy Davidson. “We’re encouraging people who want to support an area of UM that is directly focused on the very best and brightest students to consider these DHC programs.”

The Davidson family’s support over the past two decades has provided a building for the honors college, scholarships for honors students and, most recently, renovations to DHC’s garden level and a gift to complete a beautiful patio area that was initiated through the generous support of Richard Krumm and family. While they are once again leading the way, it is up to UM’s dedicated alumni and friends to expand the resources that will provide an unmatched experience for DHC students.

“The honors college is a very important element in higher education,” said Ian Davidson. “It’s a logical way to contribute to academic excellence at the University of Montana.”

Fundraising for the Teaching, Research and Mentoring Fellows Program and Honors Career Development Program is ongoing, and support is needed to fully launch these two programs. For more information on how to make a gift to the Davidson Honors College, contact Cindy Williams at 406-243-6686.

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Contact: Rachel Brumfield, UM Foundation marketing coordinator, 406-243-5691, rachel.brumfield@mso.umt.edu.
$1.5 Million Gift Launches New Davidson Honors College Programs - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – The Prelaw Program at the University of Montana has announced an above-average success rate for its students entering law school.

With a success rate of 91 percent, UM’s Prelaw Program is well above the national average admittance rate of 78 percent, which includes students not participating in a prelaw program. The UM Prelaw Program had a 92 percent success rate for students entering law school in fall 2014 and 90 percent for fall 2015, and the projected rate for this fall is 95 percent.

Associate Professor Soazig Le Bihan, UM’s Prelaw Program coordinator, said the program differs from others because it’s catered toward student personalities and interests. Le Bihan works with many students from their freshman year and advises them on both academics and extracurricular activities.

“I do not try to make my students fit into a predetermined mold,” Le Bihan said. “I mentor each student differently, trying to reveal their own personality and strengths.”
To help prepare for law school, students take an LSAT course, which is far less expensive than a private course, and a prelaw seminar.

“The prelaw seminar helps the students become truly informed about careers in the law and the application process for law school,” Le Bihan said. “So the students who apply to law school under my mentorship really have thought very seriously about why they want to go to law school.”

Le Bihan said many students attend UM’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law, but a few have gone to law school at University of California, Davis; University of California, Irvine; Oregon; Washington; New York University; Notre Dame; Chicago and Michigan, depending on their specific goals and interests.

UM students not participating in the Prelaw Program have an acceptance rate of 76 percent.

For more information on UM’s Prelaw Program, call Le Bihan at 406-243-6233, email soazig.lebihan@mso.umt.edu or visit http://hs.umt.edu/prelaw/.

###

Contact: Soazig Le Bihan, associate professor, UM Prelaw Program coordinator, 406-243-6233, soazig.lebihan@mso.umt.edu.
Prelaw Program at UM Boasts High Success Rate - UM News - University Of Montana