November 2016 news releases

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations
UM News

November 2016 News

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MISSOULA – The Harlem Globetrotters will bring their 2017 World Tour to Missoula at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the University of Montana Adams Center.

Tickets are on sale now at http://www.harlemglobetrotters.com or at the Adams Center Box Office. Prices start at $24.50.

The Harlem Globetrotters are legendary worldwide, synonymous with one-of-a-kind family entertainment and great basketball skills for the past 90 years. Throughout their history, the Original Harlem Globetrotters have showcased their iconic talents in 122 countries and territories on six continents. Proud inductees of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the Globetrotters have entertained hundreds of millions of fans – among them popes, kings, queens and presidents – over nine thrilling decades.

After setting seven official Guinness World Records last year, the Globetrotters broke a single-day total of nine records this year during the 12th annual Guinness World Records Day in San Antonio. Since 2000, the Globetrotters own 15 Guinness World Records unbroken by others.
Four of the nine Guinness World Records were reclaimed records originally held by the team and then broken by Dude Perfect: the longest basketball hook shot, longest basketball shot blindfolded, most basketball 3-pointers made by a pair in one minute and longest blindfolded basketball hook shot.

Here’s a full look at all the records set by the Globetrotters:

- Longest basketball hook shot – **Big Easy Lofton** (72 feet, 6.25 inches)
- Longest basketball shot blindfolded – **Ant Atkinson** (73 feet, 10 inches)
- Most basketball 3-pointers in one minute (single ball) – **Ant Atkinson** and **Cheese Chisholm** (10 each)
- Farthest basketball shot made while sitting on the court – **Thunder Law** (58 feet, 9.25 inches)
- Most bounced basketball 3-pointers in one minute – **Zeus McClurkin** (5)
- Most basketball 3-pointers made by a pair in one minute – **Ant Atkinson** and **Cheese Chisholm** (22 each)
- Farthest basketball shot under-one-leg – **Thunder Law** (52 feet, 5.5 inches)
- Longest blindfolded basketball hook shot – **Big Easy Lofton** (58 feet, 2.5 inches)
- Most basketball slam dunks in one minute (individual) – **Zeus McClurkin** (16)

“We are the original trick-shot artists, so it is great to reclaim our records and re-establish our dominance,” said Harlem Globetrotters star Lofton. “We have been training hard, so to have a day where we push the limits and try some fun yet challenging shots is pretty cool. I mean, how many people can say they’re a Guinness World Records holder? We can’t wait to put smiles on people's faces as we demonstrate our skills and talents on the upcoming world tour.”


For the latest videos and news about the Harlem Globetrotters, visit [http://www.harlemglobetrotters.com](http://www.harlemglobetrotters.com), follow them on Twitter @Globies or go to [http://www.facebook.com/harlemglobetrotters](http://www.facebook.com/harlemglobetrotters).

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**Contact:** Mike Morelli, interim director, UM Adams Center, 406-243-4261, mike.morelli@mso.umt.edu; Frank Klaus, Harlem Globetrotters International, 678-497-1892, klaus@harlemglobetrotters.com.
Harlem Globetrotters to Visit UM after Setting World Records - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Nine fellows from Laos, as part of SportsUnited, learned about assistive technology during their visit to the University of Montana earlier this month.

MonTECH, housed in UM’s Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities, hosted the visit in partnership with the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at UM.

As part of their on-campus experience, the fellows toured MonTECH’s demonstration lab and learned about the assistive technology resources available to Montanans. The fellows became acquainted with the assistive technology in MonTECH’s lab, while learning about efforts to make many aspects of life as accessible as possible for people with disabilities.

The fellows learned about vision, computer access and communication technology, and screen-reading technology for smart phones and computers. They saw the use of the technology to share stories through pictures. That idea hit home deeply for many of them, especially since most do not speak English well and were experiencing what it felt like to not be understood for the first time in their lives while traveling here.
“It was amazing for them to see how far technological assistance has come and to see all of the possibilities out there helped to break a lot of internal barriers they had about their ability to assist those with disabilities in their home communities,” said Mansfield Career Administrator Shanti Johnson. “MonTECH staff was excited to support the Mansfield Center fellows and to be stewards of the idea that making things accessible isn't just important, it can also be fun and intellectually stimulating.”

For more information on the international fellows visit, call Goldman at 406-534-5769 or email anna-margaret.goldman@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Anna-Margaret Goldman, MonTECH program director, 406-243-5769, anna-margaret.goldman@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The National Opera Association will honor the University of Montana Opera and UM Symphony Orchestra for their February 2016 production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s “The Gondoliers.”

NOA will award “The Gondoliers” as the Opera Production Competition’s third-place winner during the national convention in Santa Barbara, California, in January. Similar-sized programs nationwide competed with shows produced during the 2015-16 season.

“We had a ball working on this delightful show – our first venture into the wonderful works of Gilbert and Sullivan,” she said. “We knew we had something special and that our audiences had a great time, but it is gratifying to have such affirmation from this distinguished organization.”“We are thrilled to be honored by the National Opera Association for our production of The
Gondoliers," said UM Professor Anne Basinski, who directs the UM Opera Theater and served as a stage director for the production. "It's a great opportunity to see how we measure up against our peers nationally.

In addition to Basinski, "The Gondoliers" creative team included UM faculty members David Cody, conductor and music director; and Luis Millan, UM Symphony Orchestra director; as well as UM graduate student Roxann Jackson, choreographer. The production was by MCT, Inc.

This is one of several awards for the UM Opera Theater. It received first prize in 2006 and 2014 and has won national prizes for operatic scene work.

For more information on the program or the award, call Basinski at 406-243-6889 or email anne.basinski@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Anne Basinski, director, UM Opera Theater, 406-243-6889, anne.basinski@umontana.edu.
UM Opera Theater to Receive National Recognition - UM News - University Of Montana

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November 28, 2016

MISSOULA – Allie Keleti, a University of Montana track and field athlete, received a Montana Athlete in Service Award from Montana Campus Compact and Gov. Steve Bullock at the Brawl of the Wild Football Game Nov. 19.

Keleti is one of 12 college student-athletes honored for commitment and engagement in community service. A senior in communications studies from Helena, she has helped build and maintain a social media presence for the UM Spirit Squad by taking photos and videos and posting daily, volunteering nearly 100 hours the past year.
“Allie values the amount of time, hard work and dedication that all student-athletes commit to their studies and their sport,” said Charity Atteberry, adviser in UM’s Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. “Not only will her photographs, videos and social media posts remain after she graduates, but her talent and generous spirit will also leave an indelible impression on those with whom she has worked.”

MTCC, comprising 18 campuses, is a higher education network that promotes community engagement and develops student civic and social responsibilities. Student-athletes are considered for awards based on amount of volunteer time, number and type of agencies served, overall commitment to service and the legacy left by the service.

“College students in Montana do amazing community work, and their investment of time, talent and energy helps improve our communities across the state,” said Josh Vanek, associate director for MTCC.

To learn more about MTCC, visit http://www.mtcompact.org/.

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Contact: Charity Atteberry, academic adviser and life skills coordinator, UM Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, 406-243-2657, charity.atteberry@mso.umt.edu; Kathy Peters, office manager, Montana Campus Compact, 406-243-5135, peters@mtcompact.org.
MISSOULA – The Master of Public Administration program at the University of Montana took a major step toward professional accreditation recently by becoming a member of NASPAA – the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration.

NASPAA is the global standard in public service education. The organization works to ensure excellence in education and training for public service and to promote the idea of public service.

During a recent national conference, UM was recognized for as the only NASPAA member in Montana.

“We couldn’t be more pleased by this recognition,” UM Interim Provost Beverly Edmond said. “This demonstrates the vitality of our Montana program and brings us closer to achieving our goal of full accreditation.”

UM’s Master of Public Administration program is well established and recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Coursework is in-person, online or a combination of both. It’s specialization in nonprofit administration recently was ranked 10th in the nation.
UM's core MPA faculty members are program coordinator Jeffrey Green, Sara Rinfret, Andrea Vernon, Trisha Miller, Peter Koehn and Anthony Johnstone. The program prepares students for administrative careers in public and nonprofit agencies by satisfying the knowledge and skill requirements for both pre-career and mid-career students.

For more information visit [http://www.umt.edu/mpa/](http://www.umt.edu/mpa/).

**Contact:** Sara Rinfret, assistant professor, UM Department of Political Science, 406-243-2461, sara.rinfret@umontana.edu.
UM Alumna Boslough Wins Prestigious Marshall Scholarship for Graduate Study in UK

November 28, 2016

MISSOULA – Rebecca Boslough, a 2014 University of Montana graduate in resource conservation, has won the prestigious Marshall Scholarship. The award offers graduate study opportunities at British universities to about 30 young Americans each year who will serve as cultural ambassadors and as academic leaders in their chosen field of study.

Boslough intends to pursue a Master of Science degree in climate change and environmental
policy at the University of Leeds, followed by a Master of Science degree in environmental and forest management at the University of Aberdeen.

“I can’t believe I’m headed off to the U.K. in the fall,” Boslough said. “This is an incredible opportunity – not only to study in top programs in environmental policy and forest sciences but also to engage with students, professors, scientists and policymakers in the U.K. about the challenges facing forest ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.”

Boslough will engage with an international network of researchers at the Priestley International Climate Centre in Leeds on the importance of forest management to climate adaptation and mitigation.

Named in honor of former U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall, the scholarship was conceived to “commemorate the humane ideals of the Marshall Plan” and to “express the continuing gratitude of the British people to their American counterparts.”

The selection process is managed by the regional Consulates General in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City and San Francisco, as well as in Washington, D.C., by the British Embassy. Boslough interviewed in the San Francisco Consulate. The scholarship covers university fees, cost of living expenses, books, a thesis grant, research and daily travel grants, fares to and from the United States and, where applicable, a contribution toward the support of a dependent spouse.

“I’ve received so much support while at UM, during postgrad and throughout this application process,” Boslough said. “My adviser, Laure Pengelly Drake, has been phenomenal, not only helping me to put together an authentic application, but to develop a clearer vision for my future.”

Boslough is a 2010 graduate of Capital High School in Helena, Montana. She is the daughter of Elaine Samuel of Helena and James Boslough of Loveland, Colorado.
Boslough majored in resource conservation at UM, with minors in wilderness studies and climate change studies. During her junior year, she won the Truman Scholarship for leadership in public service. The Truman Summer Program gave her the chance to serve as an intern for U.S. Sen. Jon Tester in his Washington, D.C., office. She currently serves with the U.S. Forest Service in D.C. as a Truman Albright Fellow. Her position includes work on climate and wilderness, as well as a national education program.

Following her graduation from UM, Boslough spent a year in Germany as a Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholar, studying German and serving as a research assistant at the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research and a writing intern at the Coastal Union Germany. During 2015-16, she served as an AmeriCorps Energy Corps member at two Missoula nonprofits: Climate Smart Missoula and Home ReSource.

Pengelly Drake, UM’s external scholarship coordinator, said Boslough won for many reasons, chief among them being she met all the complex, high-level requirements for Marshall Scholars, including academic merit and leadership and ambassadorial potential.

“Only about 3.5 percent of the applicants win this scholarship,” Pengelly Drake said. “Becca exhibited powerful commitment to and achievements in her field of resource conservation. She showed amazingly rich experience – from the local to the international – including science research and policy development and creative communication through art, as well as her record of imaginative, determined and compassionate relationships with all stakeholders in often-vexed land management negotiations. She is a leader in her field of study and an outstanding cultural ambassador, who stood out among other highly accomplished applicants."


Contact: Laure Pengelly Drake, coordinator for UM Writing Center programs, external scholarships and advising, 406-243-6140, laure.pengellydrake@umontana.edu; Rebecca Boslough, UM alumna and Marshall Scholarship winner, 406-671-5049, r.j.boslough@gmail.com.
UM History Professor Earns Top Promotion

November 23, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana history Professor Anya Jabour was appointed the University’s 11th Regents Professor during the Nov. 17 Board of Regents meeting in Missoula.

Regents Professor is the top rank awarded to faculty members in the Montana University System. Jabour’s new
title is Regents Professor of History. A list of others who have received the honor is online at 

“I am honored to be selected as the University of Montana’s 11th Regents Professor,” said Jabour. “I am grateful to my colleagues and students for supporting my nomination. This recognition is especially meaningful to me because the first Regents Professor, Paul Lauren, has been such an important mentor to me.”

The title is bestowed on faculty members who demonstrate unusual excellence in instruction, scholarship and service, as well as distinctive impact through their work. The rank is awarded by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the University president.

Jabour, who specializes in U.S. women’s history, has been a professor at UM for over 20 years, having taught a variety of courses in the Department of History; the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies program; the Global Leadership Initiative; and the MOLLI program.

In addition to numerous articles and essays, she has written three books, “Marriage in the Early Republic,” “Scarlett’s Sisters” and “Topsy-Turvy.” She also has edited two collections, “Major Problems in the History of American Families and Children” and “Family Values in the Old South.”

She currently is working on a biography of educator and reformer Sophonisba Preston Breckinridge (1866-1948), for which she received a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She also serves as a historical consultant for the PBS Civil War-era miniseries “Mercy Street,” which returns for its second season in late January 2017.

Jabour advises graduate students in all periods of U.S. history whose interests intersect with her specialties in gender, sexuality, race and reform. Her current and former graduate students work on topics such as marriage and divorce in the Old South, courtship and family life in the Victorian West, prostitution policies in the Progressive Era and African American women’s role in the civil rights movement.

She has received the Helen and Winston Cox Award for Excellence in Teaching (2001), the Paul Lauren Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award (2014) and the George M. Dennison Presidential Award for Distinguished Accomplishment (2014). In 2013, she was named UM’s Distinguished Scholar.

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Contact: Anya Jabour, Regents Professor of History, UM Department of History, 406-243-2231, anya.jabour@umontana.edu.
UM’s Kerr Wins Anthropology Center’s Margaret Mead Citizenship Award

November 23, 2016

MISSOULA – The Center for a Public Anthropology named University of Montana Adjunct Instructor Garry Kerr the winner of the organization’s Margaret Mead Global Citizenship Award.

The award honors Mead, one of the 20th century’s great anthropologists, and commends Kerr’s effective participation in the Center for a Public Anthropology’s Community Action Online Project and other community service. Less than 1 percent of faculty in North America who teach anthropology courses receive this award.

Center director Bob Borofsky said Kerr is to be congratulated on how he takes classroom knowledge and applies it to challenges in the real world. When addressing ethical concerns within anthropology, Kerr provides students with critical thinking and writing skills needed for active citizenship.

For more information on the award, call Kerr at 406-243-2693 or email garry.kerr@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Garry Kerr, UM anthropology adjunct instructor, 406-243-2693, garry.kerr@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Montana Poet Laureate and University of Montana alumnus Michael Earl Craig will read from the recently published “Poems Across the Big Sky II” anthology at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room at UM.

The anthology was published by Flathead Valley Community College’s Many Voices Press and edited by Lowell Jaeger and Hannah Bissell.

“These Montana poems share the news we need to hear at this moment in our history, our shared lives,” said Ken Egan, executive director of Humanities Montana. “Reading this vivid, engaging, important collection, you will be brought into contact with the physical world time and time again in
often surprising ways."

A 1994 UM graduate in English, Craig has published four books of poems, “Can You Relax in My House,” “Yes, Master,” “Thin Kimono” and “Talkativeness,” as well as the chapbook “Jombang Jet.” Besides appearing in numerous anthologies, Craig’s poetry has been translated into Dutch and Chinese.

The Poetry Society of America named Craig one of “20 New American Poets” in 2003, and he was appointed the Montana Poet Laureate for 2015-17 by Gov. Steve Bullock. He currently works as a farrier and volunteers with creative writing students at Park High School in Livingston.

“As a professional farrier, Earl brings a unique set of experiences to his poetry, frequently combining highly intelligent language with the more down-home imagery of his profession and the Montana landscape where he has worked for well over a decade,” said Greg Keeler, English professor at Montana State University. “The effect is sometimes disturbing, often humorous and always original.”

Craig will read with six other alumni: Bissell, Zan Bockes, David Cates, Sally Cobau, Carla Homstad and Karin Schalm. They will share poems and memories of the Creative Writing Program dating back to the days of Richard Hugo and Madeline DeFrees.

For more information call Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, at 406-243-5267 or visit http://hs.umt.edu/creativewriting/.

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**Contact:** Karin Schalm, program coordinator, UM Creative Writing Program, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu.
Montana Poet Laureate to Read From New Anthology at UM - UM News - University Of Montana
SpectrUM Premieres ‘Water’ Exhibit, Launches 2016-17 Statewide Tour

November 21, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area has launched its 2016-17 statewide science tour with “Water,” its newest mobile exhibition.

“Water,” which premiered in Fort Benton Nov. 9-11, features interactive science exhibits and activities that explore the wonders of water and ecosystems science. Highlights of the exhibition include a virtual watershed sandbox, a groundwater model and spectrUM’s popular erosion table. The tour’s first stop reached students from Fort Benton, Geraldine and Highwood and was powered by the Chouteau County PEAK Program.

SpectrUM’s statewide tour will continue in Lolo Jan. 31 through Feb. 2, Lakeside Feb. 23 through 24, Stevensville March 15-
17, Corvallis March 20 through 24, Hamilton March 27 through 31, Browning April 20, and Victor May 8 through 12.

The spectrUM Discovery Area mobile science program travels statewide with hands-on science exhibits and activities guided by museum educators. According to spectrUM Director Holly Truitt, the goal of spectrUM’s mobile outreach is to inspire Montana’s next generation about STEM and higher education and to help power a vibrant, homegrown workforce in our state.

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 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.

“Water” is powered by the Clark Fork Coalition, the Montana Institute on Ecosystems and the Montana NSF EPSCoR Program. SpectrUM’s additional sponsors include the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NASA, the Jane S. Heman Foundation, the Martin Family Foundation, the Montana Space Grant Consortium, the Simons Foundation, the Bonneville Power Administration, GSK-Science in the Summer, Montana No Kid Hungry and the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation.

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 Premieres ‘Water’ Exhibit, Launches 2016-17 Statewide Tour - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Students from 17 Montana and Idaho high schools will participate in the 51st annual Montana Model United Nations Conference Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 21-22, at the University of Montana.

At the conference, 350 students will represent 96 of the United Nations’ 193 member states, debating and writing resolutions addressing important international issues.

Students will participate on one of five U.N. committees: the Security Council, General Assembly Plenary, General Assembly First Committee (disarmament and security), General Assembly Second Committee (economic and financial) and General Assembly Third Committee (social and humanitarian). Each committee is staffed by a team of UM students from Adjunct Professor Nicholas Potratz’s Model United Nations class, a service-learning course offered by the Department of Political Science.

Events begin at 8:30 a.m. Monday with opening ceremonies in the North Ballroom of the University Center. The keynote address titled “From Montana to the World” will be delivered by Whitney Williams. A native Montanan and graduate of UM’s Political Science Department, Williams is Founder and CEO of williamsworks, an action-oriented
High School Students Gather at UM for Model UN Conference - UM News - University Of Montana

consultancy that works with some of the world’s most influential philanthropists, successful corporations and nongovernmental organizations to tackle local and global problems. She previously worked in the White House as the trips director for Hillary Rodham Clinton, designing and managing more than 200 trips to dozens of countries and traveling alongside the First Lady numerous times. Williams is co-founder and vice chair of the Board for Eastern Congo Initiative, the first U.S.-based advocacy and grant making organization focused on working with and for the people of eastern Congo. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Students will work on the third floor of the University Center. They will meet in committees from late Monday morning through Tuesday afternoon. At 7:30 p.m. Monday, they will screen a new film, “America’s Diplomats,” produced by the Foreign Policy Association. An ice cream social with UM international students will follow.

Closing ceremonies will be held from 2 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday in the UC North Ballroom. During the awards ceremony delegates, schools and conference staff will be honored. Five high school seniors will be awarded scholarships to attend UM. All events are free and open to the public.

The Montana Model United Nations Conference is funded by school and delegate fees, as well as contributions from the UM Office of the President, vice president for enrollment and student affairs, College of Humanities and Sciences and Department of Political Science.

For more information, including participating high schools, visit MMUN online at http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun or call Potratz at 406-471-8103.

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Contact: Nicholas Potratz, adjunct professor, UM Department of Political Science, 406-471-8103, nicholas.potratz@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA — On Nov. 18, the Montana University System Board of Regents approved the naming of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation and the Franke Global Leadership Initiative in honor of Bill and Carolyn Franke and their family’s transformative $24 million gift to the University of Montana.

Directed toward UM's nationally recognized College of Forestry and Conservation and the
Global Leadership Initiative, this is the largest single donation the University has ever received.

“We are both humbled and affirmed by the Frankes’ thoughtful investment in UM,” said UM President Royce Engstrom. “The ongoing work of the College of Forestry and Conservation and Global Leadership Initiative will have a profound impact on our future.”

The Franke family members are not UM alumni but have a deep appreciation for Montana. They believe strongly in the power of education, the importance of conservation and instilling a global perspective in today’s students. Over the course of the past decade, the family has developed a strong relationship with UM.

Bill Franke is the managing partner and founder of Indigo Partners, a private equity firm focused on worldwide investments in air transportation, and former CEO of several public companies, including America West Airlines. During his early career in the timber industry, Bill drove the Hi-Line and fell in love with the Big Sky Country. He and his wife, Carolyn, divide time between Texas and Arizona but have owned a home near Bigfork, Montana, since the 1990s, maintaining their connection to the beautiful forests, rivers and lakes of western Montana.

For the past eight summers, a UM faculty member or alum has been invited to speak to a group of the Frankes’ business partners during their annual Indigo Partners company retreat in Montana.

“As we became familiar with the educational opportunities, research and special programs at the University of Montana, it was clear to us the University is a hidden gem,” Bill Franke said.

“It is our expectation that the College of Forestry and Conservation’s work will help keep Montana the beautiful place that it is. And we are believers that the Global Leadership Initiative will train students to look beyond their own experiences and home geography to recognize that we live in a global economy.”

The decision to invest in UM was a family endeavor involving Bill and Carolyn’s five
children: Dave, who oversees the family office, Franke and Company; Brian, a principal at Indigo Partners; Paige and Catherine, who are both educators; and Rebecca.

“Our family has been very fortunate in life,” said Dave, noting that his father’s education was a catalyst for the family’s achievements. “To create that same opportunity for a student – to fuel a desire to create their own success – that’s our ambition.”

The Frankes’ gift is focused on students and programs that emphasize environmental research and hands-on learning experiences. Eighteen million dollars of the gift will fuel education and research in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, providing competitive fellowship awards to faculty and graduate students, funding for undergraduates to learn about conservation through study abroad and service learning projects, and scholarships for both graduate and undergraduate students. It will also fund two faculty positions in forest conservation and watershed hydrology and support students doing internships related to their majors.

Six million dollars will fund scholarships for Franke Global Leadership Initiative students pursuing educational experiences outside of the classroom including internships, service learning, study abroad, research and field experiences. Additionally, the gift will support critical staffing and operations to continue building the program. UM’s Global Leadership Initiative is a four-year, 12-credit certificate program that provides undergraduate students opportunities to explore society’s most pressing questions by combining local and global practical experiences with classroom education.

“We have been very impressed by the UM students we have met,” Carolyn said. “I am confident that there are students and faculty at this University who will help improve lives.”

The family has a strong history of philanthropy and has been longtime supporters of the Sojourner Center, a shelter for abused women and children in Phoenix; the United Way; education initiatives in India; and many other charities. The Frankes have also made donations to the law and business programs at Stanford, where Bill received his bachelor’s and law degree, and to Northern Arizona University to establish the W.A. Franke College of Business.

Their gift to UM is in the form of an endowment, which will be fully funded in up to seven years, to ensure a continued impact on students and research in perpetuity.

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Contact: Kate Stober, senior editor, University of Montana Foundation, 406-243-2627, kate.stober@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Katie Kane, University of Montana professor in the areas of English literature, cultural studies and colonial studies will deliver the next installment of UM’s Last Lecture Series at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30, in UM’s University Center Theater. The event, hosted by the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society, is free and open to the public.

The Last Lecture Series is sponsored by the UM Mortar Board and the University Center and challenges the UM professor with the questions: “If you had one lecture left to give, what would you say? What wisdom would you impart? What do you want your legacy to be?” Mortar Board members nominate and vote on a professor who has made a lasting impression through an undergraduate program to give the lecture.

Kane is past director and co-founder of UM’s Irish Studies Program. She received her doctorate from the University of Texas. She is the past recipient of fellowships from the NEH, the Irish government, the Montana Committee for the Humanities and the MESA Foundation. At UM she teaches several graduate-level courses, as well as upper-division courses in film and literary criticism.
Mortar Board is a national honor society that recognizes college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Since its founding in 1918, the organization has grown from the four founding chapters to 228 chartered collegiate chapters with nearly a quarter of a million initiated members across the nation. Mortar Board provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community.

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

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**Contact:** Chelsey Porter, UM Mortar Board adviser, 406-243-2831, chelsey.porter@mso.umt.edu.
Elton John Returns to UM

November 15, 2016

MISSOULA – Elton John and his band will perform again at the University of Montana Adams Center at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, 2017. The concert event is part of an 11-city tour featuring iconic hits and classics from John’s incredible five-decade career and selected tracks from his latest release, “Wonderful Crazy Night.”

Tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 18, and will be available online at GrizTix, at the Adams Center Box Office or by phone at 1-888-MONTANA. A service charge is added to each ticket, and tickets are limited to eight per customer. For more information visit the GrizTix site at http://www.umt.edu/griztix/.

John is returning to Missoula after performances at the Adams Center in 2007 and 2008.

“We are extremely honored to welcome Sir Elton John back to the Adams Center for yet another incredible performance,” said Mike Morelli, director of events at the Adams Center. “The Missoula community still raves about his performance in 2008, and we look forward to another ‘Wonderful Crazy Night’ this March.”

John’s band features Nigel Olsson, part of the original three-piece band, on drums; Davey Johnstone, who first recorded with John in 1971 and joined the band a year later, on guitar; John Mahon on percussion; Kim Bullard on keyboards; and Matt Bissonette on bass. They will perform much-loved classic songs such as “Your Song,” “Rocket

John's monumental career as an international singer/songwriter and performer spans five decades. He is one of the top-selling solo artists of all time, with 38 gold records, 31 platinum albums, 29 consecutive Top 40 hits and more than 250 million records worldwide. He holds the record for the biggest selling single of all time, “Candle in the Wind '97," which sold over 37 million copies. Since launching his first tour in 1970, he has played over 4,000 concerts worldwide in more than 80 countries.

For more information about the UM concert, call Mike Morelli, interim director for the Adams Center, at 406-243-4261 or email mike.morelli@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Mike Morelli, interim director, UM Adams Center, 406-243-4261, mike.morelli@mso.umt.edu; Fran Curtis, Rogers & Cowan, 212-878-5002, fcurtis@rogersandcowan.com; Andrew Roe, AEG Live, 206-652-9701, aroe@aeglive.com.
MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana once again is offering UM faculty members and graduate students support for Asian-related research through the Yamaguchi Opportunity Fund.

The generosity of Akira Yamaguchi allows UM to offer between $500 and $1,000 each fall and spring to faculty from all departments for Asian studies research and curriculum development. Past awards have gone to faculty from the language, sociology and music departments. Supported activities include research-related travel, scholarly publications, conference participation and essential research materials.

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

Preference is given to full-time, pre-tenure faculty members, although other faculty will be considered. Limited
Spring Funding Opportunity Available at UM for Asian Research - UM News - University Of Montana

support may be available for outstanding research proposals from UM graduate students.

The application deadline is Friday, Dec. 2, and awards will be announced in mid-December. Applications can be submitted to Caitlin Sager, Mansfield Center administrative assistant, at caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at UM promotes better understanding of the people and cultures of modern Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield.

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

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Contact: Abraham Kim, UM Mansfield Center director, 406-243-2988, abraham.kim@umontana.edu.
UM Journalism School Joins New Google News Lab Initiative

November 15, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Journalism will join other top-tier media schools in the launch of a new Google “News Lab University Network” in an effort to better train new and existing journalists in data, search and emerging technologies.

The network is the latest effort by the School of Journalism to deploy technologies to tell and distribute stories in new ways.

UM School of Journalism Dean Larry Abramson said the initiative comes in response to student demand and changes in the industry.

“Our students tell us they want more training in digital tools to make them more competitive when they hit the job market,” said Abramson. “The News Lab partnership will equip the entire school – faculty, students and staff – to stay ahead of changes in the news landscape. The faculty and I are very excited about this opportunity.”

Abramson has moved to accelerate changes in the school, bringing in noted media critic and change agent Jay
Rosen and establishing the relationship with the Google News Lab.

The University Network will provide resources and support to the top universities around the world, in exchange for feedback and input to help guide News Lab curriculum and training materials for journalists, professors and the future journalists of the world.

“Being a part of the network from the beginning gives us a great opportunity to have access to the latest tools and techniques being developed by the leading technology firm in the world,” said Lee Banville, who teaches web and digital reporting at the school and ran the Online NewsHour for 14 years before coming to Montana. “This will put our digital news reporting projects on par with far larger programs.”

As part of the network, Montana professors will work with Google to develop lessons and test new products in the classroom, as well as offer feedback that will help make sure new tools serve a wide array of journalism outlets, including smaller, more rural newsrooms all across Montana.

In the past, the School of Journalism has partnered with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab and pioneered work with the Public Insight Network project. Google News Lab trainer Scott Leadingham visited in October for a daylong workshop on digital tools. In addition to students and faculty, working journalists from across Montana attended the training session.

Google started the News Lab in 2015 “to empower innovation at the intersection of technology and media,” according to the company. Google-trained experts collaborate with educators and newsrooms around the world to explore the frontiers of data analysis, mapping and graphics.

The School of Journalism launched in 1914 and has trained generations of journalists in print, broadcast, photography and new media. The school is regularly ranked among the top 10 journalism schools in the United States.

**Contact:** Larry Abramson, dean, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-4001, larry.abramson@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana faculty and staff members are invited to attend the Fall 2016 Open Studio in Ceramics from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18, in Art Annex Room 128.

Sponsored by UM’s School of Art, the event allows employees to make something out of clay. Eager and talented art students will be available to help people experience wheel throwing, hand building and decorating techniques.

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to come as they are, and tools, clay and smocks will be available.

For more information email UM ceramics Professor Julia Galloway at julia.galloway@umontana.edu or call the art office at 406-243-4181.

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Contact: Julia Galloway, UM ceramics professor, 406-243-4181, julia.galloway@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Glittering costumes, a dazzling cast and the highest-kicking chorus girls this side of the North Pole will light up the University of Montana Adams Center this December during Broadway Christmas Wonderland.

Tickets are on sale now for the show, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8.

Families can start Christmas in style with favorite holiday songs like “White Christmas,” “Winter Wonderland,” “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” “The Christmas Song,” “Jingle Bells,” “Away in a Manger,” “O Come All Ye Faithful,” “Let it Snow,” “Silent Night,” “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” “Deck The Halls,” “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” and “O Holy Night.”

A cast of 24 singers and dancers hand-selected from London, New York, Las Vegas and Los Angeles will transform the stage into pure winter wonderland magic. With over 1,000 costumes and spectacular scenery, the show will parade its way through the wonder of Christmas and the excitement of the holiday season.

Broadway Christmas Wonderland is produced by Spirit Productions and David King, an award-winning,
Internationally acclaimed theater producer known to American audiences through the megahit musical, Spirit of the Dance. The musical became one of the biggest dance shows in the world, with 14 troupes performing in 14 different countries on the same night and for more than 30 million people worldwide.

Spirit Productions owns the Palace Theatre in Myrtle Beach and the King’s Castle Theatre in Branson, Missouri, where its shows play year-round. Spirit shows have toured in more than 30 countries for more than a million people.

To purchase tickets and view price listings, visit the GrizTix page at http://bit.ly/2fwAXEG.

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**Contact:** Mike Morelli, interim director, UM Adams Center, 406-243-4261, mike.morelli@mso.umt.edu; Rebecca Brait, event and marketing coordinator, Innovation Arts and Entertainment, rebecca@innovationae.com; Catherine Major, manager, C Major Entertainment Marketing and Publicity, 206-521-9551, cmajor@cmajorpr.com.
UM / News / 2016 / November / ‘The Hard Way’ Selected as Banff Film Competition Finalist

‘The Hard Way’ Selected as Banff Film Competition Finalist

November 10, 2016

MISSOULA – “The Hard Way,” an inspirational documentary about 89-year-old ultra runner Bob Hayes, was selected as a finalist for the 2016 Banff Mountain Film Competition. In its 41st year, the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival is one of the most prestigious mountain film festivals in the world. Presented by National Geographic and The North Face, it took place Oct. 29-Nov. 6 at Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

“The Hard Way” tells the story of Hayes, who runs 30 races each year, cuts his firewood by hand and does things the hard way to remain active and alive. The film takes viewers on a journey that’s about more than running. It teaches them to live life with purpose and momentum. Montana independent filmmakers Jeremy Lurgio, a University of Montana associate professor of photojournalism and multimedia storytelling, and Erik Petersen, of Clyde Park, spent more than a year documenting Hayes’ story about remaining active and vital as he approaches 90.

“He lives an authentic, inspirational life, and we were lucky enough to document that,” said Petersen, who attended the festival with Lurgio. “Being selected as a finalist to Banff is just icing on the cake.”

“Bob lives the way many of us hope to in our later years,” Lurgio said. “He has a nice balance of hard work, running
and being active in the community. He still contra dances. He goes to the library and continues to learn all the time. It’s just really inspiring.”

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

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**About the filmmakers:** Jeremy Lurgio is a freelance photographer and an associate professor of photojournalism and multimedia storytelling at UM’s School of Journalism. You can find his work online at http://www.jeremylurgio.com/. Erik Petersen is a freelance photographer and filmmaker based in Clyde Park. You can find his work online at http://www.erikpetersenphoto.com/.

**Contact:** Jeremy Lurgio, UM associate professor of photojournalism and multimedia storytelling, 406-546-9867, jeremylurgio@gmail.com.
UM Professor Named McLaughlin Research Institute Director

November 10, 2016

MISSOULA – The McLaughlin Research Institute has named University of Montana Professor Michael Kavanaugh, director of UM’s Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, as its new director. Kavanaugh will begin his duties at the institute in December.

“Mike’s scientific expertise, energy and desire will make for a powerful leader of this long-historied Montana science institution,” said Leroy Hood, longtime member of McLaughlin’s Scientific Advisory Committee.

UM’s Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience and Kavanaugh have partnered with McLaughlin for several years. He attends annual science workshops at MRI and has presented his own research there.
Kavanaugh replaces outgoing director George Carlson, who is particularly excited about Kavanaugh’s expertise.

“I think he’ll be excellent,” Carlson said. “His work with electrophysiology, which records neuron activity in the brain, brings a new strength to the institute.”

Kavanaugh’s research is focused on expanding the understanding of signaling processes in both healthy and diseased brains, with the goal of providing new approaches to treat neurodegenerative diseases, stroke and brain injury.

Other studies in his lab are focused on novel neurotransmitters that may play important roles in learning and memory. His group has recently identified a protein in the brain mediating selective reuptake of the neurotransmitter D-serine; recent findings suggest that mutant forms of this protein cause neurodevelopmental delays in children.

“I see the addition of my work to the institute as expanding on the research that has been going on there for a long time,” Kavanaugh said.

“I want to say how happy I am to be joining the McLaughlin Research Institute as director, and how grateful I am to George Carlson for his stewardship over the past 28 years. He set a high standard of scientific rigor at MRI, and maintaining that is my top priority for the future. Next is making sure that the very talented scientists and staff of the institute have the resources necessary to fulfill our research mission.

“This is an extraordinary time in the history of brain research – advances in neurophysiology, imaging and genetics are providing scientists and physicians with exciting new tools and approaches to understand and cure neurological diseases,” he said.

Kavanaugh came to UM in 2003 from the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine, where he was a faculty member for a decade. Before that, he received a Ph.D. in biochemistry from OHSU where he served as a
postdoctoral fellow at the Vollum Institute.

He did his undergraduate studies at Washington University in St. Louis. Kavanaugh has served on neuroscience, biophysics and fellowship review panels for the National Institutes of Health and is the recipient of a number of research awards, including a Klingenstein Fellowship in Neuroscience and a senior Wellcome Fellowship from Oxford University.

Kavanaugh plans to continue MRI’s longstanding tradition of mentoring and encouraging young people through hands-on science opportunities.

“Mike brings to the McLaughlin Research Institute not only a first-class research program in neurobiology – how brain cells communicate – but also a commitment to community service and making opportunities for young Montanans in high school and college to learn how information is obtained by becoming experimental scientists,” said Irving Weissman, MRI’s Scientific Advisory Committee chair and director of Stanford University’s Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine.

Kavanaugh will maintain his research laboratory and appointment as professor at UM.

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Contact: Ginny Abbott, development director, McLaughlin Research Institute, 406-454-6000, ginnymri.montana.edu; Michael Kavanaugh, director, UM Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, 406-243-4398, michael.kavanaugh@umontana.edu.
American Piano Quartet to Perform Concert at UM Nov. 16

November 14, 2016

MISSOULA – The American Piano Quartet will perform as part of the “Celebrate Piano” series at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, in the Dennison Theatre at the University of Montana. The “Celebrate Piano” series is part of the UM Keyboard Society in the UM School of Music.

The quartet, described by UM piano faculty member Christopher Hahn as “the preeminent piano quartet,” has been together since 1984 – 32 years of performing, composing and arranging piano music for eight hands.

“Nobody does it better,” Hahn said. “If you’ve ever heard a piano quartet performed, chances are the piece was either composed or arranged by these guys. Two pianos, eight hands, the sound is truly symphonic. They’ve played in Missoula before to a fantastic response; we’re thrilled to bring this opportunity to the community again.”

The American Piano quartet includes Robin Hancock, Scott Holden, Del Parkinson and Jeffrey Shumway.

“Missoula has a very enthusiastic audience that always rewarding to play for,” Shumway said. “And UM has a great tradition of multiple piano concerts, including October’s Pianissimo! concerts, at which I’m pleased to say some of
our compositions and arrangements were performed. We’re excited to present an energetic, tuneful performance in which we’ll engage with the audience, telling of ourselves and our experiences."

The group also will perform a concert on Tuesday morning for over 900 local fifth-graders who will be bussed in for the show. The audience can expect popular and familiar pieces as well as classical and traditional repertoire. “We do this [shows for kids] quite often and we’re really excited to play for them,” Shumway said.

Tickets to the American Piano Quartet 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.griztit.com, at the UMArts Box Office or by calling 406-243-4581.

Funds raised through the concert bring in guest artists for the series, help piano students receive scholarships and attend conferences, and help with maintenance and care of the pianos at the UM.

For more information on the American Piano Quartet performance, call Christopher Hahn, UM School of Music professor, at 406-243-6490 or email christopher.hahn@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Christopher Hahn, professor, UM School of Music, 406-243-6490, 406-243-6490.
American Piano Quartet to Perform Concert at UM Nov. 16 - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Historian Nominated for Regents Professor

November 09, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana history Professor Anya Jabour has been nominated to become the University’s 11th Regents Professor. Upon approval by the Montana Board of Regents during its Nov. 17-18 meeting in Missoula, Jabour’s new title will be Regents Professor of History.

Regents Professor is the top rank awarded to faculty members in the Montana University System. Established
in 1991, the Regents Professor title is earned by faculty members who demonstrate unusual excellence in instruction, scholarship and service, as well as distinctive impact through their work. The rank is awarded by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the University president. A full UM list of those who have received the honor is online at http://www.umt.edu/provost/about/RegentsProfs.php.

“Dr. Jabour is a prolific and well-respected historian, both nationally and internationally,” UM President Royce Engstrom said in his nomination. “She is a distinguished scholar, a respected and beloved teacher, and a dedicated member of the UM, Missoula and Montana communities.”

Jabour, who specializes in U.S. women’s history, has been a professor at UM for over 20 years, having taught a variety of courses in the Department of History; the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies program; the Global Leadership Initiative; and the MOLLI program.

In addition to numerous articles and essays, she has authored three books, “Marriage in the Early Republic,” “Scarlett’s Sisters” and “Topsy-Turvy.” She also has edited two collections, “Major Problems in the History of American Families and Children” and “Family Values in the Old South.”

She currently is working on a biography of educator and reformer Sophonisba Preston Breckinridge (1866-1948), for which she received a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She also serves as a historical consultant for the PBS Civil War-era miniseries “Mercy Street,” which returns for its second season in late January 2017.

“This is truly a case of a scholar and teacher generating a distinctive impact locally and nationally,” said Christopher Comer, dean of UM’s College of Humanities and Sciences. “Anya is a scholar admired by colleagues, a dedicated teacher and a tireless advocate within our community for the voice of women to be heard, both in the present and from the past.”
Jabour advises graduate students in all periods of U.S. history whose interests intersect with her specialties in gender, sexuality, race and reform. Her current and former graduate students work on topics such as marriage and divorce in the Old South, courtship and family life in the Victorian West, prostitution policies in the Progressive Era and African American women’s role in the civil rights movement.

She has received the Helen and Winston Cox Award for Excellence in Teaching (2001), the Paul Lauren Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award (2014) and the George M. Dennison Presidential Award for Distinguished Accomplishment (2014). In 2013, she was named UM’s Distinguished Scholar.

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**Contact:** Anya Jabour, professor, UM Department of History, anya.jabour@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Kasper Hansen, an assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Montana, recently received a five-year, $1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for his research.

Hansen is a Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence investigator in UM’s Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics. His research focuses on N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptors in the central nervous system, which are critically involved in neuronal development, sensory processing, memory and learning. Aberrant activity of these receptors is strongly associated with numerous neurological and psychiatric disorders, including depression, schizophrenia, epilepsy and traumatic brain injury, as well as Parkinson’s, Huntington’s and Alzheimer’s diseases.

In a recently published scientific article in the high-impact journal Neuron, Hansen and postdoctoral fellow Feng Yi, together with Tung-Chung Mou and Stephen Sprang in UM’s Macromolecular X-ray Diffraction Core Facility, used electrophysiological and X-ray crystallographic methods to explain the mechanism of action for a novel class of inhibitors that target neuronal NMDA receptors. This work and Hansen’s other research activities create a foundation for the development of new therapeutic agents to treat brain disorders that involve NMDA receptors.
Hansen’s grant was awarded to study strategies and mechanisms that can be used in the treatment of childhood epilepsy and aphasia syndromes caused by abnormal activity of NMDA receptors.

For more information about the UM Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics, call 406-243-6003 or visit http://hs.umt.edu/cbsd/.

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**Contact:** Kasper Hansen, assistant professor, UM Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 406-243-4820, kasper.hansen@umontana.edu.
UM Community Encouraged to Attend Virtual Conference on Accessibility

November 09, 2016

MISSOULA – The entire University of Montana campus community is invited to learn more about a wide array of pertinent accessibility topics by attending the 19th annual Accessing Higher Ground Virtual Conference Wednesday through Friday, Nov. 16-18.

UM’s School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, Disability Services for Students, Information Technology’s Accessible Technology Services and the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Working Group are co-sponsoring the event, which will stream 23 hourlong presentations to the James E. Todd Building rooms 201 and 205 over three days.

“We hope members of the campus community take advantage of this convenient opportunity to learn from accessibility experts around the nation,” said Marlene Zentz, accessibility specialist in UM’s School of Extended and Lifelong Learning.

Topics range from making interactive maps accessible to promoting the universal design paradigm on campus. A complete conference schedule is available online at http://accessinghigherground.org/virtual/#Pre-
All members of the campus community are welcome to drop into sessions of interest, free of charge as their schedule allows. No registration is required.

For more information call Zentz at 406-243-6434 or email marlene.zentz@umontana.edu.

Contact: Marlene Zentz, senior instructional designer, accessibility specialist, UM School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, 406-243-6434, marlene.zentz@umontana.edu.
UM Biological Station Researchers Document Ancient and Methane-Derived Carbon in Stoneflies

November 09, 2016

MISSOULA – New research by scientists at the University of Montana's Flathead Lake Biological Station has documented the first example of freshwater consumers using ancient methane-derived carbon and the most extensive example of a methane-derived carbon contribution to a river ecosystem.

The research – conducted by FLBS researchers Amanda DelVecchia and Jack Stanford, along with Xiaomei Xu from the University of California at Irvine – was recently published in the open access journal, Nature Communications. Read the article online at http://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms13163.

The team's research focused on the Nyack floodplain on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River in Montana; the main stem of the Flathead River in Kalispell, Montana; the Jocko River floodplain near Arlee, Montana; and the Methow River floodplain in Winthrop, Washington. The work helped to explain a decades-old question in
groundwater ecology: How do thousands of large-bodied stoneflies survive in the barren (carbon-poor) and dark environment of gravel aquifers underlying river floodplains?

The researchers found that up to 67 percent of the carbon in stonefly biomass (body tissue) across entire floodplains came from methane. Furthermore, the methane carbon in the Nyack floodplain ranged from modern to millennial-aged (6,900 years old) to ancient (greater than 50,000 years old).

The millennial-aged methane carbon could have come from organic matter deposited during the retreat of the last glaciation 7,000-10,000 years ago, or the ancient carbon could have come from a shale methane source, as the Kishenehn shale formation underlies the floodplain. Either methane source was likely consumed by bacteria first before being directly or indirectly consumed by the stoneflies themselves.

River floodplains are some of the most valuable and most threatened ecosystems in the world. The findings of this study advance scientific understanding of the base energy sources in freshwater ecosystems and underscore the value of pristine river floodplains for maintaining biodiversity, productivity and ecosystem services such as maintained water quality.

The researchers continue to research the role of methane in the food web and community ecology of the Nyack aquifer and expect subsequent findings to be published over the next one to two years.

DelVecchia received her Ph.D. from UM in 2016. She is a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Scholar at Allegheny College, North Carolina State University and the Rocky Mountain Biological Station; Stanford is emeritus professor and former director of the Flathead Lake Biological Station; and Xu is a project scientist at the UC Irvine Keck Laboratory.

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Contact: Amanda DelVecchia, NSF postdoctoral scholar, Allegheny College, amanda.delvecchia@gmail.com.
UM Students Advance to National Sales Competition

November 09, 2016

MISSOULA – Sixteen students and 12 judges participated in the third annual scholarship sales competition, hosted by Northwestern Mutual, at the University of Montana in October.

“The quality of the presentations was the best we’ve ever seen,” said Michael Butler, Northwestern Mutual development Officer. “Students were professional, well-prepared and demonstrated a high degree of poise and maturity.”

Each finalist played the role of salesperson representing a company selling telecom solutions. The “buyer” represented a regional-sized financial services firm with an outdated phone system. Presenters built rapport with the buyer and worked to create sales presentations that could overcome objections.
After two rounds of sales presentations, three winners were selected by a panel of experts that included UM School of Business Administration professors and community business leaders.

Students were evaluated in seven categories: approach, needs identification, product/service, overcoming objections, close, communication skills and overall performance.

On Oct. 26, Northwestern Mutual sponsored an awards luncheon at the UM Canyon Club to honor all participants and judges and recognize the outstanding performances of the three winners.

Scholarship funds doubled this year from $2,000 to $4,000. Northwestern Mutual awarded a $2,500 first-prize scholarship to Aerionna Hardesty, a $1,000 second prize to Tatem Hoehn and a $500 third-prize scholarship to Baylee Bergman.

The top two competitors will represent UM in the National Collegiate Sales Competition this spring at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. They will compete against students from over 70 universities across the country.

The NCSC is the largest and oldest sales role-play competition in existence. Participants come from the most elite sales programs located at universities around the world.

“The competition is a great way for students to get practical experience,” Butler said. “Plus, it gives them good insights into what sales and marketing is all about. Whether you win or not, it’s a valuable educational tool.”

Contact: Andrea Armstrong, UM School of Business Administration department assistant, 406-243-4832, andrea.armstrong@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The popular MontanaPBS program "Backroads of Montana" will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a special event for viewers and friends in Deer Lodge.

"Backroads of Montana" will premiere segments from its upcoming anniversary special at the restored Rialto Theatre on Thursday, Nov. 17. A red-carpet welcome begins at 6:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, and popcorn will be served.

People will learn how the television program has made a difference in the lives of viewers from around Montana through special anniversary clips. They will also be a part of a "Backroads" pledge segment and celebrate a quarter-century with "Backroads" producers and host William...
“We know we’ve touched a lot of lives with our program,” Marcus said. “We’re hoping viewers and friends of the program will join us to celebrate 25 years of stories.”

People interested in attending should RSVP by calling 406-243-4101 or emailing Broadcast Media Center Director Ray Ekness at ray.ekness@umontana.edu by Monday, Nov. 14.

The “Backroads of Montana” 25th anniversary program will air Monday, Dec. 5, on MontanaPBS (KUFM-TV in Missoula, KUSM-TV in Bozeman, KUKL-TV in Kalispell, KBGS-TV in Billings, KUGF-TV in Great Falls and KUHM-TV in Helena), a service of the University of Montana and Montana State University. For more information, visit http://mtpr.org/ or http://www.montanapbs.org/.

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Contact: Ray Ekness, director, UM Broadcast Media Center, 406-243-4154, ray.ekness@umontana.edu.
UM’s Montana World Trade Center Launches Technology Export Initiative

November 07, 2016

MISSOULA – The Montana World Trade Center at the University of Montana will introduce a tech export initiative at its TechEx kickoff event, “Wisetail Tells Its Tale,” from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, at First Interstate Bank. The event will be held at the bank’s downtown location, 101 E. Front St.

The initiative will help Montana businesses in industries such as cloud computing, photonics and bioscience industries move to the forefront of technical exports by bringing together a team in international trade and technical law and offering practical training based on the everyday experience of real Montana companies.

“These companies have largely geographically agnostic business models. They’re thriving in Montana because their knowledge-based workers demand the types of lifestyle amenities our state provides,” said Brigitta Miranda-Freer, MWTC executive director. “They will become an increasingly important part of our state’s economic base and certainly our base of exporting companies, given that they are not subject to the traditional geographic barriers to export. We need to do what we can to fan the flame and expedite the international market entry and expansion efforts of these firms.”
Members of the new tech export team will weigh in on best practices in a live case study, after Wisetail CEO and founder Justin Bigart shares his story from the perspective of a Software as a Service internationally. Seating is limited.

“For nearly two decades, MWTC has served Montana as a trusted adviser: for businesses wanting to connect globally and prosper locally,” said Miranda-Freer. “The TechEx Initiative is designed to give Montana-based SaaS companies like Wisetail an edge in exporting these services to other markets.”

According to a 2015 report from UM’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Montana's high-tech and manufacturing industry is growing eight times the rate of the Montana economy. In Missoula, tech companies like Submittable and EDULOG are growing and leaving their marks, and according to the Montana High-Tech Business Alliance’s February profile, 16.4 percent of companies in the alliance are software/SaaS companies. But not every company has found the help it needs to expand.

“Technical assistance for these types of technology exports is difficult to obtain,” Miranda-Freer said.

A common problem that exporters have is a lack of uniformity in export regulations, security considerations and tax structure, and while the global demand for cloud computing technology is clear, export figures are elusive given the rapidly changing nature of the industry. However, projections, regardless of source, point to a strong global market with anticipated exponential growth.

Beginning in November, MWTC provides access to a team of export professionals and targeted training to help businesses to help businesses and ultimately help move Montana’s economy forward.

The team consists of four experts, leaders and entrepreneurs: Angela Marshall Hofmann, founder and president of World Strategies LCC; Joel Henry, senior counsel with Michael Best and co-founder of Agile Data Solutions; Antoinette Tease, intellectual property attorney; and Justin Cook, Certified U.S. export compliance officer.

Together, these dynamic members of MWTC’s Tech Export Team aim to move the needle on Montana’s tech-based exports by giving businesses access to their knowledge and experience. Initial free consultations and discounted service packages will be available for MWTC members. Businesses may register to attend the free event at http://www.mwtc.org/.

For more information call Brigitta Miranda-Freer at 406-243-6982 or email at brigitta@mwtc.org

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**Contact:** Brigitta Miranda-Freer, executive director, Montana World Trade Center, 406-243-6982, brigitta@mwtc.org
UM’s Montana World Trade Center Launches Technology Export Initiative - UM News - University Of Montana
Second Annual Industrial Technology Career Fair Returns to Missoula Nov. 4

November 04, 2016

MISSOULA – The second annual Industrial Technology Career Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the University of Montana's Missoula College West Campus, located at 3639 South Ave. W.

The Industrial Technology Career Fair provides an opportunity for students to learn about the world of work and potential post-graduation employment opportunities. It aims to foster a connection between employers and students to address current workforce needs.

The fair is free and open to any business or organization that seeks to employ students trained in the Industrial Technology Programs of carpentry, commercial driving, diesel technology, facilities management engineering, heavy equipment operation, machining or welding.

Employers can register online at http://www.umt.edu/career/CareerFairs/ITCF/default.php.

For more information call Mani Stubbs, UM career counselor, at 406-243-6830 or email manuel.stubbs@mso.umt.edu.
Second Annual Industrial Technology Career Fair Returns to Missoula Nov. 4 - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Mani Stubbs, career counselor, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-6830, manuel.stubbs@msos.umt.edu.
UM Student Wins EPA Graduate Fellowship

November 04, 2016

MISSOULA – A University of Montana student was one of 50 students nationwide awarded a Science to Achieve Results Graduate Fellowship from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Ranalda Tsosie earned a $132,000 grant in May for her project “Addressing Longstanding Groundwater Contamination using Silica Polyamine Composites in the Tsétah Area in Arizona.” Tsosie is a doctoral student in interdisciplinary studies with a research emphasis on chemistry, environmental studies and geosciences. She will receive the grant over the next three years, until her expected graduation from the doctorate program.

A member of the Navajo Nation, Tsosie was awarded under the
funding opportunity for sustainable and healthy communities for tribes and American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Pacific Islanders. Her research focuses on developing a filter for the removal of contaminating metals, such as uranium and arsenic, from wells on the Navajo reservation in Arizona.

“It’s opportunities like the EPA STAR Fellowship that provide a foundation for STEM graduate students like myself and foster up-and-coming scientists to address the Nation’s environmental concerns,” Tsosie said.

Tsosie said the grant will help her complete her graduate studies, pay for travel to and from her study sites in Arizona and purchase research supplies. She also was offered a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, but declined.

UM offers other opportunities for Native American graduate students, such as Native American Student Scholarships and the Alfred P. Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership.

“There are numerous funding sources for Native American students across all disciplines, and I encourage every student to take the time to develop an outstanding personal statement and apply for these opportunities and others that are available,” Tsosie said.

The EPA’s STAR Graduate Fellowships program for master’s and doctoral students is part of a national effort to ensure the United States meets current and projected human resource needs in environmental science, engineering, mathematics and technology.

“These exceptional students will conduct innovative research while pursuing advanced academic degrees,” said Thomas Burke, EPA science adviser and deputy assistant administrator for the Office of Research and Development. “These STAR Fellows are the future environmental and public health leaders, and their research will help move the field forward.”

Since its beginning in 1995, the program has awarded 1,884 fellowships to students in every state and helped educate new academic researchers, government scientists, science teachers and environmental engineers. To learn
more about fellowship opportunities from the EPA, visit https://www.epa.gov/careers/fellowships-scholarships-and-post-doctoral-opportunities.

To learn more about scholarships for Native American students at UM, visit http://hs.umt.edu/nas/scholarships/default.php.

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**Contact:** Ranalda Tsosie, UM doctoral student, ranalda.tsosie@umontana.edu.
November 04, 2016

MISSOULA — A leading authority on the politics of the social welfare system will present “Trapped in America’s Safety Net: One Family’s Struggle” as part of the 2016-17 President’s Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

Andrea Campbell, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Political Science Department head and Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science, will deliver the lecture at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14, in the Dennison Theatre. The lecture is in collaboration with the Project on American Democracy and Citizenship.

Campbell also will lead the seminar “Why So Little Policy Movement on Caregiving Issues? A Policy Feedback Perspective” 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.

After earning a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, Campbell taught for five years at Harvard University before joining the Political Science Department at MIT.

Her teaching and research interests include American politics, political behavior, public opinion and political
inequality, particularly the intersection between these topics with social welfare policy, health policy and tax policy. She has won several academic honors, written articles for leading scholarly and policy journals and published three books: “Trapped in America’s Safety Net: One Family’s Struggle,” “The Delegated Welfare State: Medicare, Markets and the Governance of American Social Policy” and “How Policies Make Citizens: Senior Citizen Activism and the American Welfare State.”

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://umontana.edu/president/events/lectures/ or call UM history Professor Richard Drake at 406-243-2981.

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**Contact:** Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA — A display narrating the Irish struggle for independence and the support given by Ireland’s “exiled children in America,” is now available for viewing at the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana.

“Erin’s Exiled Children: The Irish of America and the Making of Modern Ireland” was created in honor of the centennial of Ireland’s Easter Rising in 1916 and documents the Irish struggle for independence and the role the Irish in America played in keeping their traditions alive.

UM, the Butte Silver-Bow Archives, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Friends of Irish Studies in the West, and The Gathering created the exhibit. It is located on the main floor of the library and is free and open to the public during normal library hours.

Traolach Ó Riordáin, director of UM’s Irish Studies program, reinforces the importance of the relationship between Ireland and America.

“It was the Irish of America who synthesized cultural and political nationalism into a coherent movement that swept
through Ireland from the 1890s and led to the Easter Rising and War of Independence," Ó Riordáin said. "It was to America that the Irish nationalists came for instructions, political support and financial aid. The nationalists in Ireland and the British government realized as early as the 1880s that the fate of Ireland would be decided in America. Our exhibit is a humble attempt to draw public attention to this – to the contribution made by the Irish of this country and to the freedom and rebuilding of Ireland. We hope that it will encourage scholars and researchers to focus more of their attention on the contribution made by the Irish of America. We also hope that it inspires a younger generation to recognize and to celebrate the sacrifices and achievements of those who came before them.”

“We wanted to ensure the role of the Irish of America, and particularly the Irish of Montana, were recognized,” says Bob O’Boyle, director of The Gathering. “We felt it was crucial to celebrate this great history and get the story told.”

This exhibit is the product of an Institute of Museum and Library Services planning grant awarded to the Mansfield Library, in partnership with Irish Studies at UM, Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives and University College Cork, Ireland. UM’s Irish Studies program and the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives worked together to create this exhibit to educate Montanans about their role in the independence of Ireland. This exhibit debuted at the State Capitol in April 2016 and has since traveled to Anaconda, Butte, Virginia City and Missoula.

The exhibit is the first of three undertakings to celebrate the role of the Irish in Montana in the shaping of modern Ireland. The second was the recent American Conference on Irish Studies and the third will be a series of documentary films in Irish and English.

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Contact: Julie Biando Edwards, associate professor, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, 406-243-4505, julie.edwards@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The Nursing Program at Missoula College has earned continuing accreditation at the highest level from the National Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

Continuing accreditation, based on a rigorous evaluation of nursing instruction, curriculum and facilities,
Missoula College’s Nursing Program Receives Continuing Accreditation - UM News - University Of Montana

requires meeting six standards set by the national commission and was granted in August after the submission of a self-study report and an on-site evaluation visit. Each standard addresses specific areas, including mission and administrative capacity, faculty and staff, students, curriculum, resources and outcomes.

“We have an awesome faculty and staff who constantly strive not only to meet the accreditation standards but also to exceed them,” said Dixie McLaughlin, Missoula College Nursing Program director. “Nursing faculty are tasked with developing and regularly reviewing our curriculum to ensure integrity, rigor and currency, which they do with inordinate skill and knowledge.”

More than 300 students at Missoula College are enrolled in pre-nursing, with approximately 76 students in the Nursing Program. The program prepares students to be competent and caring individuals who assist in meeting the health care needs of Missoula and surrounding communities. Program graduates receive a Registered Nursing degree and have high-demand job opportunities in the nursing field in hospitals and other facilities, depending on their specialty.

In 2015, every student in Missoula College’s Nursing Program passed the required Council Licensure Exam. Due to this, students in the Nursing Program cumulated an overall licensure pass rate of 94 percent, compared to 85 percent nationwide.

Missoula College’s Nursing Program also has the approval of the Montana Board of Nursing.

“This is a wonderful acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication that our faculty and staff show on a daily basis,” said Missoula College Dean Shannon O’Brien. “This just reaffirms the collaborative efforts that have been put forth between the Nursing Program and local leaders in the area of health care. We are excited to continue these partnerships next year as Missoula College moves into our new facility.”

The accreditation board of commissioners highlighted Missoula College’s new building, under construction on East Broadway, as an area of strength. O’Brien said the program’s opportunities will expand with the building’s advanced facilities.
“This ongoing commitment to excellence in the classroom and our partnerships in the community will help ensure that our students continue to lead the nation in their licensure rates,” O’Brien said.

The re-accreditation is in effect for the next eight years.

To learn more about the Nursing Program, visit http://mc.umt.edu/nursing/.

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**Contact:** Dixie McLaughlin, Missoula College Nursing Program director, 406-243-7875, dixie.mclaughlin@umontana.edu.
UM’s MonTECH will open a Billings Outreach Center in the Montana Center for Inclusive Education at Montana State University-Billings on Monday, Nov. 14.

MonTECH, housed in UM’s Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities, provides support and services that improve the quality of life for Montanans with disabilities through offering assistive technology devices and demonstrations in a free equipment loan program.

The exciting collaboration serves MonTECH’s vision to improve lives with technology while meeting the Montana Center for Inclusive Education’s goals to serve a diverse population and provide continuing professional development opportunities for educators and direct service providers.

Marlena Lanini, a Billings occupational therapist and MonTECH’s eastern clinic coordinator, will bring a wealth of experience to the new outreach center. After working at the Assistive Technology Resource Center at Colorado State University and throughout school districts, she will help residents in Billings and eastern Montana use AT for living, learning, work and play.

Lanini and Anna-Margaret Goldman, MonTECH program director, will ensure a diverse set of assistive technology
devices arrives in Billings. The outreach center will include hearing, vision, daily living, communication and ergonomic equipment, as well as computer access.

Service providers, educators, health care providers and assistive technology users are welcome to see the new space and demonstration lab at an open house from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Nov. 15, in Room 160 at the College of Education at MSU-Billings. Light snacks will be provided.

The Billings Outreach Center will be open Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday by appointment. To set up an appointment for Monday through Wednesday, email Lanini at marlena.lanini@mso.umt.edu.

For questions about MonTECH’s new office and collaboration, call Goldman at 406-243-5769 or email anna-margaret.goldman@mso.umt.edu. For more information about the Montana Center for Inclusive Education, call director Marsha Sampson at 406-657-2085 or email marsha.sampson@msubillings.edu.

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**Contact:** Anna-Margaret Goldman, program director, UM MonTECH, 406-243-5769, anna-margaret.goldman@mso.umt.edu; Marsha Sampson, director, MSU-Billings Montana Center for Inclusive Education, 406-657-2085, marsha.sampson@msubillings.edu.
UM Alumni Win Emmy Award for Climbing Documentary

November 02, 2016

MISSOULA – Five graduates from the University of Montana recently were part of a team of artists that won an Emmy Award for their work on the documentary film “Valley Uprising.” The film tells the story of Yosemite National Park’s counterculture rock-climbing revolution that spanned three generations and still influences the sport today.

The “Valley Uprising” team received the Emmy for Outstanding Graphic Design and Art Direction during the News and Documentary Awards held Sept. 21 in New York City.

Lead Motion Designer and Art Director Barry Thompson pulled together the team of digital artists that included Sari Jones,
Greg Twigg, Eric Bucy and Wesley Meeks. All five are graduates of UM’s School of Media Arts.

Film directors Peter Mortimer and Nick Rosen urged the team to “make the viewers’ hands sweat and make them feel vertigo from the extreme heights,” which was challenging because the era of climbing history that the film chronicles was not well documented on video. Instead the design team relied heavily on photography, bringing still imagery to life by immersing the audience in historic photographs and “flying” through the images. The result is more than an hour of stunning footage that takes viewers up Yosemite’s steep vertical walls and places them alongside climbers.

Twigg, who is an associate professor in UM’s School of Media Arts, said the team was surprised and honored to win the Emmy.

“We knew that our work was solid and extensive, but we were up against some major players in our field,” he said. “The fact that the majority of the team was made up of UM media arts and arts alums is truly as much a major win here on campus as it is for us individually. It feels really, really great.”

In addition to the recent Emmy win, “Valley Uprising” screened at film festivals around the world and received several awards. Watch a trailer of the film at https://youtu.be/o86TpaSBcWw.
Contact: Greg Twigg, associate professor, UM School of Media Arts, 406-243-4540, greg.twigg@umontana.edu.
UM Provost’s Lecture Series to Feature Teaching and Learning Professor

November 02, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana teaching and learning Professor Julie Bullard will speak Tuesday, Nov. 15, as part of the Provost’s Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series.

Bullard will present “The Development of the Young Child’s Brain: Why the Environment Matters” at 5 p.m. in the North Ballroom of the University Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Bullard is an early childhood professor at UM. During her 35 years in the field, she has taught in preschool and elementary schools, has been a childcare director and Head Start administrator, university professor and administrator. She is considered an innovative teacher and has received two national awards for her teaching, research and service: the Carnegie Professor of the Year for Montana in 2011 and the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators’ Outstanding National Early Childhood Teacher Educator of the Year in 2015.

Bullard has a passion for the importance of children’s early learning environments on their development and learning. She has presented national and state workshops on the topic, written many articles and has published a textbook, “Creating Environments for Learning: Birth to Age 8.” The book is used throughout the United States and
internationally and has been translated into several languages.

Bullard served on a committee that wrote the national early childhood higher education standards. She has been involved in the development of the Montana early childhood knowledge base, infant-toddler guidelines, preschool standards, kindergarten standards and early childhood higher education standards. As a result of these efforts, she has received the Montana Early Childhood Service Award and the McCarthy Public Service Award. Bullard received her doctorate in curriculum and instruction with an elementary and early childhood emphasis from Montana State University.

To learn about this event, visit http://www.umt.edu/provost/events/PDFLS/default.php

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**Contact:** UM Provost’s Office, 406-243-4689, officeoftheprovost@umontana.edu.
UM Students to Visit Standing Rock Peace Camp Nov. 4

November 02, 2016

MISSOULA – Seventeen University of Montana students and staff members will make a trip to Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota to show support for the local region. The trip departs from The Bookstore at UM before sunrise on Friday, Nov. 4 and returns on Sunday, Nov. 6.

UM to Standing Rock is sending regional academic delegation in cooperation with Salish Kootenai College and other regional tribes to the Standing Rock Peace Camp. The students and staff members will interview members to learn more about them. The students will use the experience to craft a presentation during next year’s DiverseU event.

“The lessons that our young people will take away from this undertaking have the potential to lead to a life-altering outcome,” said Joseph Grady, UM Student Involvement Network program adviser.

To support the students to Standing Rock, visit https://www.gofundme.com/2t77gbg.

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Contact: Joseph Grady, UM Student Involvement Network program adviser, 406-243-5590, joseph.grady@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Officials from a new biotech company, Inimmune Corporation, met with Gov. Steve Bullock Nov. 1 to discuss how the University of Montana connects researchers and entrepreneurs and the potential impacts for the state’s economy. The meeting was held at the Montana Technology Enterprise Center (MonTEC), UM’s business and technology incubator.

“Universities play a key role in the development of new technology and bringing it to the marketplace,” said Scott Whittenburg, vice president for research and creative scholarship at UM, which is positioned to surpass last year’s unprecedented record of $87 million in external research funding.

The Inimmune biotech firm emerged from a unique partnership with UM. In February 2015, GSK Vaccines announced consolidation of its research and development operations, resulting in the closure of its research operations in Hamilton later that year. Having worked together for more than 15 years and not wanting to leave Montana, the research team needed to find the necessary laboratory space and infrastructure capable of supporting a large multidisciplinary research program.
Enter UM. Seeing the potential connections between the University's research mission and its available resources for technology transfer and entrepreneurship, officials began exploring possibilities with the research team. The team forged a strong public/private partnership, resulting in the transfer of over $20 million in National Institutes of Health research contracts and equipment to UM.

“Inimmune is uniquely positioned to expand into a growing immunotherapy sector by harnessing the immune system to treat diseases with a high unmet medical need” said Jay Evans, president and CEO of Inimmune. The company is focused on the discovery and development of new therapeutics for treatment of allergy, autoimmunity, upper respiratory tract infections and cancer.

Earlier this year, 15 of the employees from the GSK-Hamilton research team were hired at UM, including five new faculty members. Between Inimmune and the University, the team has expanded to 22 employees and will grow to 25 by the end of the year.

There are many benefits to come from this new partnership. Among them, UM has proposed a new Center for Translational Medicine, with this highly experienced team of researchers at the core, which will assist UM faculty in translating research ideas from the laboratory to practical applications. Evans will direct the new center and seek to expand opportunities for biotechnology partnerships at UM and prepare students for careers in the biotech industry. Evans said this collaboration was what sparked the creation of Inimmune.

After meeting with officials, the governor toured the Inimmune laboratories and discussed plans for creating additional research facilities on the UM campus.

“As Montana's economy grows and diversifies, getting research breakthroughs to market quickly propels new innovations, new businesses and more technical, high-paying jobs for Montana,” Bullock said.

Contact: Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship, 406-243-6670, vpr@umontana.edu; Jay Evans, Inimmune Corp. president and chief executive officer, 406-201-1940, jay.evans@mso.umt.edu.
UM Student Group Zootown Cabaret to Perform Political Satire Musical

November 01, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s musical theatre ensemble Zootown Cabaret will perform “Red, White & Blues,” a musical theatre review of political satire, at 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Missoula Winery and Event Center.

“Red, White & Blues” pokes fun at the presidential election and state politics – all while celebrating the great American songbook. There will be songs from Broadway and popular music by Irving Berlin, Harold Rome, Leonard Bernstein, Randy Newman and many others. The show also features popular Missoula performer Jeff Medley.

Tickets are sold at the door and can be purchased by cash or check only. The cost is $10 for general admission and $5 for UM students. The Missoula Winery and Event Center is located at 5646 W. Harrier Dr. in Missoula.

For more information on the “Red, White & Blues” performances call UM School of Music Professor David Cody at 406-243-6880 or email david.cody@umontana.edu.

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Contact: David Cody, professor, UM School of Music, 406-243-6880, david.cody@umontana.edu.