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January 2017 news releases

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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UM Lecture to Focus on Future of Public Universities

January 31, 2017

MISSOULA – The past president of the American Sociological Association and the International Sociological Association will present a lecture exploring the crises facing public universities at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, in UM’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law Room 101.

Michael Burawoy’s lecture, “Whose University? Reflections on the Future of the Public University,” will focus on the role and value of public universities. The lecture is free and open to the public.

“We are living in a time of the university in crisis, and rather than harken to a presumptive Golden Age, we have to plan alternative visions,” Burawoy said.

Burawoy holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Chicago and is a professor of sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. Since 1972, he has published widely on the labor process, political economy, ethnography and social theory, and he has presented at conferences and public lectures around the world, from Chicago to China. He has received a number of noteworthy awards, including two National Science Foundation grants, two Distinguished Teaching Awards and the Goldman Distinguished Professor in the Social Sciences award.
For more information call Dusten Hollist, UM sociology professor, at 406-243-2843 or email dusten.hollist@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Dusten Hollist, UM sociology professor, 406-243-2843, dusten.hollist@mso.umt.edu.
Students Make UM Dean’s List

January 31, 2017

MISSOULA – At the University of Montana, 2,425 students made the fall semester 2016 Dean’s List and President’s 4.0 List. To qualify for the Dean’s List or President’s 4.0 List, students must be undergraduates, earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher and receive grades of A or B in at least nine credits. Students who receive any grade of C+ or below or no credit (NC/NCR) in a course are not eligible.

The UM students listed below made the fall semester 2016 Dean’s List or the President’s 4.0 List. Double asterisks after a name indicate the student earned a GPA of 4.0. A single asterisk indicates a GPA greater than 3.5 but less than 4.0.

This information also is available online at: http://bit.ly/2k16ArC.

ABSAROKEE:

Brooke Kern*

ALBERTON:
Jerome Brovold,* Fauna Cavaliere,** Alec Managhan,* Bradley Odell,* Dennis Schuster*

ANACONDA:

Ashley Flachmeyer,** Jesse Forster,* Kiernan Gallagher,* Lisa Laslovich,* Anthony Orrino,* Abby Stanberry,**
Jackson Wagner*

ARLEE:

Amanda Andres,* Karleigh Bolin,** Alyssa Chervenka,* Sean Christensen,* Elizabeth Rissler Pratt*

BAKER:

Darby Bettenhausen*

BELGRADE:

Trevor Campbell,** Alexis Carrier,** Jonathan Eastwood,* Morgan Eitel,* Canyon Hohenstein,* Katalyn Lindberg,**
Madison Page,* Caitlin Ryan*

BELT:

Kieran Bergstrom*

BIG SANDY:

Madison Reichelt,* Justin Stevens,* Morgan Williams*

BIG SKY:

Jonathan Calvert**

BIG TIMBER:

Hunter Hensley,* Jessica Johnston,* Taesan Josephson,* Greta Sanders**

BIGFORK:

Sierra Curtis,* Sara Friedrich,* Shannon Frizzell,* Ronald Gallegos,* Jeana Kerr,* Tabitha May,* Ellen Pemberton,**
Emily Stephens*

BILLINGS:

Broquel Albertson,* Corbin Albright,* Colin Angland,* Allyssa Baxter,* Alexis Beagle,** Mikaela Beausoleil,*
Courtney Bentz,* Joshua Blakley,* Nathan Bradley,* Jeremy Brooks,** Katrina Browne,* Ryan Burke,*

**BLACK EAGLE:**

Joelle Lundy**

**BONNER:**

Sarah Harmsworth,* Riley Slayden*

**BOX ELDER:**

Kaylene Big Knife,* Danielle Vazquez*

**BOZEMAN:**


**BROADUS:**

Emily Johnson*

**BROADVIEW:**

Scott Bymaster*

**BUTTE:**

CASCADE:

Cassidee Boland**

CHARLO:

Kilee Bartschi,* Kelsie Blevins,* Gwendolyn Couture,** Jesse Long,* Aspen Runkel,* Spencer Sucha*

CHINOOK:

Scott Hamilton,* Jacob MacLean*

CLANCY:

Karina Carlson,* Matthew Krantz,** Hannah Morigeau,* John Perros,* Cody Rosenbaum,** Tyzer Smith,* Tianna Thurston*

CLINTON:

Darby Henthorn,* Morgan Hill,* Michael Hook,** Aaron Hoppe,* Patricia Huff,** Lerene McFarland,* James McFarland,* Frankie Needles,** Cody Oliver*

CLYDE PARK:

Timbre Barnes*

COLUMBIA FALLS:

Emily Church,* Alexi Corbett,** Matthew Erhart,* Ciera Finberg,** Mason Gedlaman,** Danielle Gilley,** Brittany Groesbeck,* Joseph Gross,** Kaili Hagen,* Kiersten Hubbard,** Parker Johnson,** Natalie Law,* Katherine Miller,* Ashley Palmer,* Melissa Parks,** Nicolas Ream,* Aaron Shay,** Caleb Sobczak**

COLUMBUS:

Ryan Koski,* Chloe Russell**

CONDON:

Lauren Selleck,* Lucas Townsend*
CONRAD:

Drew Arends,** Robert Bender,* Kyle Dyrud,* Alicia Fladstol,* Kurtis Janzen,** Gregg Kalbas,* Lynne Spears*

CORVALLIS:

Jane Booth,* Jenna Carlos,* Bryce Davis,* Ashley Davis,* Andrew Day,* Kellin Devine,* Jonathan Durling,** Brooke Heckeroth,** Elizabeth Hennessy,** Alexandra Hennessy,* Hannah Higgins,* Kelaiah Horat,* Nathan Hughes,** Shunteal Jessop,* Matthew Kingston,** Ashley McAdams,* Megin Pelkey,** Shelley Pickett,** Ashley Reed,* Kyle Shifflett,* Joshua Smith,* Zachary Smith,* Zena Smith,* Jon Swallow,** Gavin Wagner,* Sarah Wright*

CROW AGENCY:

Jordynn Paz*

CULBERTSON:

Emily Nielsen,* Shelby Weeks*

CUT BANK:

Jared Berkram,* Nicholas Gilbert,* Erika Karcher,* Alexandra Schilling*

DARBY:

Sheehan Flanagan,* Dawson Jakober,** Rylee Johnson,** Cougan Kidd,* Lily Lang*

DEER LODGE:

Michele Christnacht,* Beau Davis,* Kellie Despain,** Ivy Duncan,** Jami Fjermestad,* Marie Johnson,** Cassandra Jolly,* Rachel Kersch,* Marin Sewell,* Daley Snell**

DILLON:

Austin Carver,* Kristen Cottom,* Ingrid De Groot,* Curen Feliciani,* Holly Hansen,* Timber McQuiston,* Austin Schurg,* Kansas Suenram,** Trae Williams*

DUTTON:

Jude MacDonald**

EAST HELENA:

Kyleen Dolan,* Christopher Grubb,* Saffire Halverson,** Alexandra Langer,* Bethany Lindner,** Aidan McGinley,*
Hunter VanDonsel,* Kourtney Zeigler**

EKALAKA:

Cory Lovec**

ELLISTON:

Sawyer Johnson,* Joseph Pennington*

EMIGRANT:

Natalia Boise,** Bethany Down**

ENNIS:

Carl Kautz,* Matthew Skillman*

EUREKA:

Stephen Cooke,** Kade Fleenor,** Michael Garner,** Sarah Moen,** Alexandra Pluid,** Grace Williams*

FAIRFIELD:

Renee Hansen,** Taylor Hayes,* Morgan Woods*

FLORENCE:

Mary Burke,* Leia Chapman,* Hayley Cole,** Madeline Colledge,* Conner Copeland,** Lacey Curlin,* Katherine Decan,** Sophia Etier,* Margaret Finlay,* Michael Finlay,* Caitlin Gillespie,* Riley Jean Graham,* Danika Greer,** Stephen Hall,** Xavier Kneedler-Shorten,* Liliane McGee,** Megan Moe,* Emily Morrison,* Ashleigh Nielsen,* Stephanie Novak,* Carli O'Brien,* Trisha Parrish,** Daniel Parsons,** Jacqueline Pateman,* Sarah Pedone,* Steven Roberts,* Tristan Scott,* Rebecca Seegraber,* Kristal Sharp,* James Standish,* Jed Syrenne,* Bailey Veitenheimer,** Sean Warner,* Jacob Wight,* Kourtney Zeiler**

FORSYTH:

Madyson Klapmeier,** Devin Maves,* Taylor McDermott,* Wesley Vassau*

FORT BENTON:

Maren Engen,** Jenna Truax**

FORT SHAW:
Students Make UM Dean’s List - UM News - University Of Montana

Karen Leonardson*

FRENCHTOWN:

Brady Baughman,** Madison Blass,* Caitlin Blomgren,** McKayla Botsford,* MacKenzie Brosious,* Zoe Dansie,* Katlyn Delger,** Megan Fall,** Abigail Gillespie,* Andrew Honken,** Sara Joerger,* Joshua Jordan,** Barbara Peterson,** David Reardon,* Raeanna Richards,** Haley Shepard,** Victoria Stavish,* Liliya Vorobey,* Eric Wilsey*

GARDINER:

Taylor Perius*

GLASGOW:

Peter Breigenzer,** Sydney Faul,* Mary Fewer**

GLENDIVE:

Bryce Benson,** Morgan Mires,** Jesse Schaaf*

GREAT FALLS:


HAMILTON:

HARDIN:

Holly McFarland,** Kathryn Spencer**

HARLEM:

Emma Lamebull*

HARLOWTON:

Rachel Hiner*

HATHAWAY:

Kassidi Heinle,** Kadie Heinle**

HAVRE:

Shelbi Brough,** Nikki Gabrielsen,* Karlee Gebhardt,* Andrew Kafka,* Hailee Kilgore,* Jacob Lilletvedt,* Kyle Lucke,* Tori Mazurkiewicz,** Hannah Pepprock,** Sarah Peterson,** Emily Simonson,* Chase Smith,* Amber Spraker*

HELENA:


HERON:

William Firmage*

HIGHWOOD:
Luke Davison,* Shannon Ryffel,* Kellie Jo Settera**

HINGHAM:

Shelby Lipp,* Samantha Pester,* Quinn Spinler*

HOBSO:

Dawson Auck*

HUSSION:

Rebekkah Bain,* Nathaniel Bennett,* Clara Brown,* Daniel Keenan,* Reagan Mechem,* Josephine Padgett,* Bryn Winterberger*

JEFFERSON CITY:

Colton Kreamer,** Jacob Kreamer*

KALISPELL:


KEVIN:

Erika Postma**

KILA:

Madison Bunten*

LAKESIDE:

Max Conroy*
LAMBERT:
Delaney Krenning*

LARSLAN:
Austin Neufeld*

LAUREL:
Haley Barthuly,* Karisma Blohm,* Katie Conrad,* Cara Grewell,* Stephanie Kolb,* Ira Li,* Cooper Love,** Savannah Sletten*

LEWISTOWN:
Hayden Brewer,* Parker Errecart,* Brooke Gardner,* Jacob Godbey,** McKayla Henson,* Jaree Mane,* Jessica Martin-Biggins,* Jessica Mittal-Lohse,* McKenzie Morgan,* Christopher Morucci,* Aidan Stansberry,** Sydney Stivers,** Nora Weichel,* Sydney Wier*

LIBBY:
Charles Birtwistle,* Hailey Craig,** Samantha Kumle,* Kyla O'Brien,** Shyla Stevenson,* Caleb Swartzendruber,* Natasha Swartzendruber*

LINCOLN:
Jessika Eiskant,* Gabe Harris,* Caitlin Plummer*

LIVINGSTON:
Emily Buckner,** Jamie Cahoon,* Braden Fitzgerald,* Meghan Gibson,** Emma Hewey,* Sophie Hewey,* Alexandra Hull,* Kadin Irish,* Erick Kahila,* Lexi Klawitter,** Aspen Klawitter,** Sonia McLain,** Claire Meyer-Wisneski,* Nicholas Ormsby,* John Potenberg,* Megan Schoenen,* Juliana Sukut*

LODGE GRASS:
Shalani Gentry*

LOLO:
Michelle Asby,** Miranda Brenna,** Abigail Christensen,** Austin Cook,* Karli Cotton,* Elizabeth Cowan,** Chloe Gendrow,* Brenna Glidewell,* Markie Glidewell,* Kyra Glidewell,** Nicole Gordy,* Andrew Hawkins,** Skylar Hollenback,* Ethan Jenkins,* James Kay,** Melissa Kienitz,* Breanna Kirby,* Rachel Kosch,** Kristie Latreille,** Kelly Lunstad,** Alyssa McLean,* Ronald Milton,* Jenna Nickless,** Jennifer Nogle,** James Pennington,* Dakota Pyles,** Markie Russell,** August Stack,* McKenna Sweet,** Caleb Tutty*
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LORING:
Kiana Simonson*

MALTA:
Jenise Amestoy,* Brett Amestoy*

MANHATTAN:
Kennedy Grubich,** Mariah Harvey,* Madison McLaughlin,** Kelsy Payne,** Lana Stasiak*

MARION:
Cadelyn Nunn*

MILES CITY:
Jake Johnston,* Nate Schieffert,* Beth Sutter,* Tori Swope*

MILLTOWN:
Colby Fitch*

MISSOULA:
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**MOIESE:**

Trinda Rosenbaum,** Ashley Shoemaker*

**MONARCH:**

Holly Croff**

**MONTANA CITY:**

Sierra Garza*

**NORTH WORDEN:**

Rylee Gulde*
NOXON:

Austin Johnson*

OILMONT:

Rachel Ehlers*

OUTLOOK:

Matthew Sedgwick*

PABLO:

Stephanie Mcdonald*

PARADISE:

Abigail Ehret*

PARK CITY:

Hazel Bullis,* Michaela Gieser,** Wesley Yarnall*

PENDROY:

Dahn Ebert*

PHILIPSBURG:

Daniel Stoken**

PINESDALE:

Samuel Allred,* Penney Allred,** Sherry Clarke,* Kassia Herbert,* Allison Jessop,* Daniel Jessop,* Carlie Jessop,* Chantel Jessop,* Kayla Lewis,* Benjamin Reynoso,** Ashley Wissenbach,* Amber Wissenbach**

PLAINS:

Glenda Privett,* Aubrey Quamme,* Marion Willmus*

PLENTYWOOD:

Karli Peterson**
POLSON:

Jordan Bernhardt,** Ferrol Brown,** Kenyon Cairns,* Hayden Congdon,* Dylan Cooper,* Madeline Cunningham,* Quinton Decker,* Mackenzie Forbis,* Joshuah Gowen,** Rachael Hagen,* Antonio Hendricks,* Alisha Jore,* Haley Kendley,** Mollie Lemm,* Shannon McGinnis,* Kalvin Patterson,** Hannah Potter,** Dylan Quinn,* Taylor Rost*

POMPEYS PILLAR:

Brandley Peabody*

POTOMAC:

Alessandra Alcala*

POWER:

Carly Chapdelaine,** Isaiah Dunk,* Alicia Murray**

RAPELJE:

Maira Ambris,* Bianey Ambriz,** Gregory Arno*

RAYNESFORD:

Georgia Shultz*

RED LODGE:

Zoe Contreras Beary,* Keri Nauman,* Eli Nordstrom*

ROBERTS:

Elsie Wipplinger*

RONAN:

Morgan Andres,** Charles Brower,** Andria Donovan,* Ashley Peterson*

ROUNDUP:

Morgan Eliasson,** Robert King,* Hunter Saltzman*

SAINT IGNATIUS:
Christopher Camel,* Sydney Castor,* Nathaniel Doll,* Jordyn Eichert,* Alan Harriman,* Jennifer Killorn,* Dawnelle Sorrell,* Brandon Wilber*

SAINT REGIS:
Elizabeth Pruitt*

SEELEY LAKE:
Holly Cahoon,* David Cahoon,* Shenoah Curley Wildshoe,* Lisa Morgan,* Buck Stokes,* Derek Tupper,* Clint Tyler*

SHELBY:
Jacob Flesch,* Kelly Hasquet,** Kaela Rideout**

SHEPHERD:
Carson MacIntyre,* Collin Wilson*

SHERIDAN:
Madyson Beagley,* Katie Hall**

SIDNEY:
Kory Halvorson,* Kelsey Halvorson,** Shane Monsen*

SIMMS:
Jace Rogers*

SOMERS:
Eric Driver,* Brittany Kretske**

ST IGNATIUS:
Alyssa Otter,* Amber Williams,** Dorothy Young*

STANFORD:
Mary Mikeson**

STEVENSVILLE:
Camille Baker,* Amanda Bennett,** Adam Busch,* Sarah Bush,* Devin Carlson,* Casey Creppel,* Richard Daniels,* Jax Hassler,* Arron Johnson,* Christopher Lords,* Alexander Lotan,* James Lucas,** Danae McNamara,** McKayla McNamara,** Claus Meier,** Shelby Murphy,* Nani Murray,* Benjamin Nalls,* Charles Nieblas,* Michele Noonan,** Bryan Painter,* Chelsea Reichard,* Shelby Robinson,* Audrey Rohlman,** Curtis Schiwal,* Alycia Sims,** Christina Spokas,** Lucas Teynor,* Jennifer Wright*

**SULA:**

Kerisa Miller*

**SUNBURST:**

Justine Bye,** Emily Griffin,* Samuel Miller,* Andrew Ryan*

**SUPERIOR:**

Cary Chamberlain,* John O'Brien,** Michael Repke,* Morgan Sarmento,* Bradley Smith,* Nicole Stroot,* Jennifer Walker,** Vincent Yakubowski,* Lisa Yakubowski*

**SWEET GRASS:**

Jackson Nagy*

**THOMPSON FALLS:**

Aicia Curran,** Annie Gustafson,** Aislinn Hillmon,* Callie Jacobson*

**THREE FORKS:**

Tucker Bronson,* Madison Flaget**

**TOWNSEND:**

Sarah Hamburg*

**TROUT CREEK:**

Abraham Hidy,* Benjamin Seratt*

**TROY:**

Jeremy Akin,** Taylor Berget,* Alan Carmignani,* Kasey Faur,* Craig Helmrick,* Erin Landis,** Callahan Peel,* Kevin Peel*
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**TURAH:**

Ryan Hoppe**

**TURNER:**

Lyndsay Hutton*

**TWIN BRIDGES:**

Alice Giem,* Eldon Johnson,* Mariah Mays,** Spencer Stewart*

**VALIER:**

Tristan O'Neal,* Keegan Widhalm*

**VAUGHN:**

Nicholas Smerker*

**VICTOR:**

Blakeland Bowen,* Meghan Bowers,** Heidi Brower,** Hannah Brower,** Sarah Ekkelboom,** Jonathan Mayo,* Barbara McCrorey,** Brad Palin,* Michel Redman,* Richard Reed,* Jebediah Rosen,* Krista Smith,** Emily Walling*

**VIRGINIA CITY:**

James Stauder*

**WEST GLACIER:**

Jennifer Steven**

**WEST YELLOWSTONE:**

Tristen Burden,* Maisie Gospodarek,* Wendi Liszka*

**WHITEFISH:**

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WHITEHALL:
Dusty Keim,* Taryn Mercer,* Jerry Townsend*

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS:
Victoria Forkin,** Kelsie Lopp*

WILSALL:
Koryn Haight**

WINNETT:
Garret Jolma*

WISE RIVER:
Richard Powers*

WOLF POINT:
Alyssa Hoversland,* Erin Presser,** Kathryn Presser**

WORDEN:
Noelle Reiter*

Contact: UM Registrar’s Office, 406-243-2995, .
MISSOULA – Americans named bison our first-ever “national mammal” last spring. But this winter, 900 bison from the prized Yellowstone National Park herd will be shipped to slaughter. Why? Why are we killing almost 20 percent of the largest wild bison herd in the lower 48?

That’s one of the questions at the heart of a new podcast and public radio show that premieres at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, on Montana Public Radio, a service of the University of Montana.

“Threshold” explores one story about the natural world over a series of episodes and asks what that story says about us. The first season is all about bison – the history of our tangled relationship with this iconic animal and the choices we currently face that will shape its future.

“When you start out talking about bison, you end up talking about America,” said “Threshold” producer Amy Martin. “Before Europeans arrived, over 50 million wild bison roamed North America. In 1901, there were just 23, protected inside Yellowstone National Park. Now, wild bison are once again at a threshold.”
Martin said people saved bison from extinction, and we celebrate them on everything from currency, to craft beers, to football jerseys. But she argues we haven’t provided enough habitat for them to truly make a comeback. And we haven’t decided if we’re actually ready to coexist with them, or at what scale.

“These animals evoke really strong feelings in people,” Martin said. “Their story is intertwined with some of the fundamental narratives that have shaped our country. Freedom, independence, wildness, strength, Manifest Destiny, ‘don’t fence me in’ – it’s all in there.”

One of the goals of “Threshold” is to give people on all sides of a controversial issue a chance to be heard and to engage listeners in helping to craft solutions to stubborn problems.

“We’re very excited to bring this new program to our listeners,” said Michael Marsolek, MTPR program director. “It’s an issue of importance to Montanans that we hope will create a dialogue.”

In season one, titled “Oh Give Me a Home,” listeners will be introduced to people fighting to restore bison and those who feel deeply threatened by the possibility of their return. Listeners also will hear from ranchers, bison advocates, scholars, government officials and indigenous activists like Ervin Carlson from the Blackfeet Nation.

“I love going to battle for these animals – and for us, for our culture,” Carlson said.

“Threshold” will air weekly on MTPR and be available to stream and download at http://www.thresholdpodcast.org/ and at http://mtpr.org/.

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Contact: Nora Saks, “Threshold” outreach coordinator, 978-996-5766, outreach@thresholdpodcast.org; Michael Marsolek, MTPR program director, 406-243-4096, michael.marsolek@umontana.edu.
UM Lands on Top 10 List of ‘Best U.S. Colleges and Universities for Mountain Bikers’

January 30, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana recently was named one of 10 best universities for mountain bikers by Singletracks.com.

The website considered a number of variables, including the proximity of on-campus or close-to-campus singletrack for students without a car, the quantity of high-quality singletrack in the general area for students with transportation, the quality of the collegiate racing team, the quality of the academics and more.

The website lists the 10 colleges and/or universities in alphabetical order. UM is the only Montana university included on the list.

Singletracks.com writer Greg Heil wrote, “We also do our best to not only give an overview of the trail access in each area, but the most highly developed degree tracks at each institution. So if you’re hoping to pursue a degree
in engineering, or marketing or nursing, choose the school that best applies to you!"

The website points to UM’s renowned W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation and School of Journalism as programs that might be particularly appealing to mountain bikers.

The list and accompanying article can be found online at [https://www.singletracks.com/blog/mtb-trails/the-10-best-colleges-and-universities-for-mountain-bikers/](https://www.singletracks.com/blog/mtb-trails/the-10-best-colleges-and-universities-for-mountain-bikers/).

For more UM highlights visit the “Griz Facts” section at [http://www.umt.edu/why/](http://www.umt.edu/why/).

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**Contact:** UM Campus Recreation, 406-243-2802, campusrec@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana President Sheila Stearns and her husband, Hal, received 2017 Governor’s Humanities Awards during a Jan. 26 ceremony at the State Capitol in Helena.

The couple earned the awards for teaching, supporting and demonstrating the value of the humanities during their distinguished roles in Montana education. Hal worked as a teacher and public humanities presenter, and Sheila served as Montana Commissioner of Higher Education. She was named UM’s interim president in December.

“It’s a great privilege for both Hal and me to be recognized with this honor,” Sheila Stearns said. “The humanities teach so many lessons and play key roles in critical thinking and developing
well-rounded individuals. They are something we have always promoted."

Humanities Montana and Gov. Steve Bullock presented the awards to six worthy Montanans. The other awardees were Chere Jiusto, John Murray, Karen Aspevig Stevenson and Dorothea Susag.

For more information on the awards, visit http://bit.ly/2je0chu.

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**Contact:** Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
UM News

UM Wilderness Lecture Series Enters 33rd Year with a History Lesson

January 26, 2017

MISSOULA – The Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana invites UM students and the public to attend its 33rd annual Wilderness Issues Lecture Series kick-off at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, in Gallagher Business Building Room 122.

This year’s lecture series, “Our Map of the World: Defining our Future Based on Lessons Learned in the Past,” will focus on social and environmental historical events both nationally and internationally. Storytellers will connect these histories, and, like reading a map, use case studies to decipher where we have come from, where we are now and where it is we would like to go in the future – from post-war reconstruction to the conservation of wild places and formation of new policies.

“It’s become increasingly clear that the value of historical actions, decisions and knowledge gained through our collective experience as humans can be used to create new and creative solutions to some of the challenges we face as societies,” said Natalie Dawson, director of UM’s Wilderness Institute. “We hope to provide some case studies of specific examples of lessons we have learned in the past to some of the challenges we are facing right now in the realm of wilderness and our natural environments, as well as other social and cultural actions and
movements.”

These case studies include post-war reconstruction and dystopian societies, as well as specific places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, political think tanks like the American Lands Council and social movements like indigenous treaty rights.

The lecture series will feature perspectives from scholars, writers, activists and policymakers about the value of history in understanding the future of our societies – local, regional, national or global.

All lectures take place Tuesdays from 7 to 8:20 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 122 and are free and open to the public. The schedule is:

- **Feb. 7** – “Building Anew: A Holistic Approach to Post-war Recovery,” Kimberly Maynard, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center Fellow in International Affairs
- **Feb. 21** – “Bringing Life Back to Northwest Rivers and Nearshore Environments: The Elwha River and Nisqually Delta Restorations,” Jeff Crane, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at St. Martin’s University in Lacey, Washington.
- **Feb. 28** – “The Career of an Adventure-Conservationist,” Jon Waterman, award-winning author and wilderness adventurer.
- **March 7** – “Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty: Columbia River as International Case Study in Ethics and Water,” John Osborn, physician and conservationist, Center for Environmental Law and Policy.
- **March 14** – “Equity and Information Access in the Context of Natural Disasters,” Rebecca Bendick, UM geoscientist and professor.
- **March 28** – “Exxon Valdez Oil Spill – Its Influence on Conservation and Oil in Arctic Alaska,” Dan Ritzman, regional director, Sierra Club.

Students also may take a one-credit class, Our Map of the World: Defining our Future Based on Lessons Learned in the Past, listed as NRSM 371 (CRN: 30257).

For more information call the Wilderness Institute at 406-243-5361, visit the website at [http://bit.ly/1IMuO04](http://bit.ly/1IMuO04) or email wi@cfc.umt.edu.

**Contact:** Natalie Dawson, UM Wilderness Institute director, 406-552-5550, wi@cfc.umt.edu.
UM Wilderness Lecture Series Enters 33rd Year with a History Lesson - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Gallery to Display Work of Ceramic Artists from Archie Bray Foundation

January 26, 2017

MISSOULA – The Gallery of Visual Arts at the University of Montana will present an exhibition of ceramic works by current long-term artists in residence at the Archie Bray Foundation from Tuesday, Jan. 31, through Thursday, Feb. 23.

The gallery will host an opening reception for the exhibition from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, and many of the featured artists will attend. The Gallery of Visual Arts, located on the first floor of the Social Science Building, is free and open to the public.

The exhibit features sculptural and functional ceramic art by participating artists Hannah
Cameron, Ling Chun, Nicholas Danielson, Perry Haas, En Iwamura, Myungjin Kim, Steven Young Lee, Chris Riccardo and Noah Riedel, who explore a variety of concepts and materials in their work.

Cameron and Kim explore narrative through surreal animal imagery that expresses the complexity of the human experience. Imamura’s colorful installation work uses the media combination of drawing, painting and ceramics that is inspired by personal life experiences, as well as American and Japanese pop culture. Chun describes her work as a “playground for glaze,” and she creates colorful mixed media works that challenge traditional use of materials. The figurative work of Riccardo has raw textural surfaces that create an emotive quality.

The forms used in Danielson and Riedel’s functional work reference architectural and industrial design. Lee, Archie Bray’s current resident artist director, challenges pre-conception of style, form, symbolism, superstitions and identity in his functional and sculptural work. Haas’ functional pieces are primarily wood-fired, resulting in rich surface texture from the ash in the kiln deposits on the forms.

“The exhibit clearly illustrates the diversity of Archie Bray Foundation artists and how their vast range of experience and aesthetic approaches, cultures and perspectives come together,” said gallery Director Cathryn Mallory.

The Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts, located in Helena, is a public, nonprofit educational institution founded in 1951 by brickmaker Archie Bray. The 26-acre former brickyard is internationally recognized as a gathering place for emerging and established ceramic artists. Since its inception, more than 600 artists from around the world have come to work at the Bray. This creative environment is a dynamic arts community where resident artists share experiences and explore new ideas.
For more information call Mallory at 406-243-2813 or email gallery.visarts@umontana.edu. Information about the Gallery of Visual Arts is available at www.umt.edu/art.

Contact: Cathryn Mallory, director, UM Gallery of Visual Arts, 406-243-2813, gallery.visarts@umontana.edu, cathy.mallory@umontana.edu.
UM Lecture Series to Focus on Global Public Health

January 26, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s minor in global public health will host the “Global Public Health: Experiences and Insights” lecture series during spring semester. The series highlights the contributions of Montana professionals who are addressing urgent health needs around the world.

The lectures will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Jan. 25 through May 3, in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. All lectures are free and open to the public.

This year’s lectures will focus on Ebola, refugee health, dental hygiene in rural settings and a variety of international health care issues.

Topics span a broad geographic area, including Tanzania, Ethiopia, India, Peru, St. Lucia and Montana, and speakers will address topics including virology, nursing, physical therapy, information management, education, dental hygiene, disabilities, occupational therapy, food and agriculture, and public health planning.

“This year’s lecture series will highlight health systems in really remote places,” said Peter Koehn, director of UM's
Global Public Health program. "The topics will be of interest to both those in the medical profession and a general audience – in fact, one of the presenters is a former Peace Corps recruiter here at UM."

The interdisciplinary lecture series is offered at the initiative of the Global Public Health program’s External Advisory Committee.

The lecture series, “PSCI 191 - Global Public Health,” also is offered as a one-credit pass/no pass UM course, under course number 34761.

For a list of speakers or more information, call Heidi Lissau at 406-552-5525, email heidi.lissau@umconnect.umt.edu or email Koehn at peter.koehn@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Peter Koehn, director, UM Global Public Health, 406-243-5294, peter.koehn@mso.umt.edu.
UM Lecture Series to Explore Health in the New Millennium

January 24, 2017

MISSOULA – Six University of Montana faculty members will explore new developments and trends in health- and medicine-related fields during the UM Alumni Association’s 2017 Community Lecture Series, “Health in the New Millennium.”

Lectures will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday, Feb. 7-March 14, in the University Center Theater. Each event will include a Q-and-A session.

Reed Humphrey, dean of UM’s College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences and leader of the Health and Medicine initiative, will launch the series Feb. 7 with “Mythbusters: Health, Wellness, Longevity and Prevention of Chronic Illness.” A schedule of the remaining lectures follows.

- **Feb. 14:** “Autism: Signs, Symptoms and Strategy,” Anisa Goforth, assistant professor, psychology.

- **Feb. 21:** “Cognition in Aging and Brain Health,” Stuart Hall, professor, physiological psychology and clinical neuropsychology.
- **Feb. 28:** “Understanding LGBT Mental Health Disparities,” Bryan Cochran, professor, psychology.

- **March 7:** “Technology Advancement in Fitness and Performance,” Brent Ruby, professor, health and human performance.

- **March 14:** “Exercise and the Cardiac Fountain of Youth,” John C. Quindry, associate professor, health and human performance.

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

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**Contact:** Angela Weisenburger, on-campus events coordinator, UM Alumni Association, 406-243-6439, angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu.
UM Dining hires new director

January 24, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana recently selected Campbell "Camp" Howard as its new director of UM Dining. Howard will begin his new position on Monday, March 13. He will oversee UM Dining’s 25 campus food service locations, including residential and retail dining, UM Concessions, UM Catering and its full-service bakery.

"With 19 years of collegiate food service administrative experience and an additional 11 years as an executive chef, Howard will continue UM Dining’s mission and commitment to providing UM students, faculty and staff with the most delicious, nutritious and sustainably sourced food available," said Tom Crady, UM vice president for enrollment and student affairs. "A champion for sustainable business practices, Camp will continue to work collaboratively with campus and community partners to perpetuate and strengthen Missoula’s local food system."

"UM Dining is an internationally award-winning and nationally recognized collegiate food service program," said Mark LoParco, director of UM Dining who will retire at the end of
spring semester. “The department has a proud tradition of implementing student-centered, feedback-based initiatives. Camp’s education, leadership experience and vision uniquely position him to continue UM Dining's ranking as one of the premier collegiate food service programs in the country.”

LoParco’s retirement comes after 25 years of serving students.

Howard most recently served as the director of Campus Dining at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, and has been a certified executive chef through the American Culinary Federation for much of his career.

“I am honored by the great opportunity to lead the UM Dining team and to continue providing excellent food and service to the University of Montana community with a department already held in high regard,” Howard said. “I look forward to working with the chefs, managers and administrators while demonstrating a holistic approach for food sourcing and an unbridled commitment in providing creative, exciting, wholesome food on campus.”

Howard will relocate to Missoula in March and looks forward to the opportunity to mountain bike, ski and fly-fish. His other hobbies include photography, cooking and riding a unicycle.

**Contact:** Sam Belanger, UM Dining director of marketing, 406-243-5089, samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana will continue its 42nd Annual Economic Outlook Series with presentations in Kalispell on Tuesday, Feb. 7, Sidney on Tuesday, March 14 and Miles City on Wednesday, March 15.

This year’s keynote address is entitled “The High Wage Jobs Puzzle – Finding Montana’s Place in the New Geography of Jobs” and will be presented by BBER Associate Director Bryce Ward.

The program will address the following question: In a time when some well-prepared Montana graduates migrate out of state to locations with developed industries and occupations where skilled, creative workers are abundant, what can Montana possibly do?

“This program examines what these changes might mean for Montana’s economy,” Ward said. “It also questions if Montana, particularly its entrepreneurs, can figure out how to develop a more robust ‘knowledge economy’ – an economy that allows more of Montana’s young, creative and ambitious people to remain in the state.”
Also, with the state Legislature in session, the program will address possible budget reductions. It aims to answer common questions such as: Is the state running out of money? Is Montana's economy in decline?

“These types of questions concerning all Montanans will be addressed throughout the outlook seminars,” said Patrick Barkey, BBER director.

The seminars also will present the U.S., Montana and local area economic outlooks. The programs will highlight a local industry along with other important economic sectors. There will be a panel discussion, moderated by well-known media consultant Ian Marquand, featuring local experts and presenters giving attendees the opportunity to interact and ask questions of the panel.

Registration costs $85, which includes the “Montana Economic Report 2017,” a complimentary USB drive pre-loaded with the PowerPoint presentation slides, a book of the black-and-white PowerPoint presentations, lunch and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER’s award-winning business journal. Continuing education credits are available. Groups of five or more can receive a discount by registering online at http://www.bber.umt.edu/.

The seminars run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at all locations except for Kalispell, which will be held from noon to 5 p.m. The schedule follows:

- **Kalispell**: Tuesday, Feb. 7, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Sidney**: Tuesday, March 14, USDA/Agricultural Resources Services office
- **Miles City**: Wednesday, March 15, Sleep Inn & Suites

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

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

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

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**Contact:** Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A new paper out Jan. 23 in the journal Nature Climate Change by University of Montana researcher Ashley Ballantyne delves into one of the great uncertainties in predicting future climate.

“Will ecosystems take up more carbon or release more carbon as the climate changes?” Ballantyne said. “This is a key question in trying to predict what the climate might look like in the future.”

Together with former UM doctoral student William Smith, Ballantyne investigated the sensitivity of these carbon feedbacks. While carbon dioxide has increased steadily over the last 50 years, the Earth’s temperatures have increased in an erratic stair-step pattern due to redistribution of energy in the Earth system.

“We were curious to learn how Earth’s carbon cycle responded during periods of rapid warming and periods of less rapid warming,” Ballantyne said. “We discovered that the amount of carbon taken up by land ecosystems slows during periods of rapid warming and speeds up during periods of slower warming.”

The researchers were surprised to learn that this speeding-up of carbon uptake during periods of slower warming...
was due mainly to less respiration from plants and not to greater photosynthesis. This means that during the so-called ‘warming hiatus’ from 1998 to 2012, the Earth took up much more carbon from the atmosphere. However, as global warming ramps up again, this carbon may be returned to the atmosphere to further warm the planet.

UM Regents Professor of Ecology Steve Running is a co-author of the paper.

The paper, “Accelerating net terrestrial carbon uptake during the warming hiatus due to reduced respiration,” was published Jan. 23 at Nature Climate Change and can be viewed at http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate3204.html.

Contact: Ashley Ballantyne, UM assistant professor of bioclimatology, ashley.ballantyne@umontana.edu; Leana Schelvan, UM forestry college director of communications, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University Center at the University of Montana will host a grand opening of The Branch Center from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1. The event is free and open to the campus community, with refreshments provided by UM Catering.

The Branch Center is a community space for student diversity and inclusion which supports student success by providing programs, services and resources for historically underrepresented UM students and their allies. It is named after UM’s former Vice President of Student Affairs Teresa Branch, who retired this past June.

The space, formerly known as the Student Organization Suite, was renovated in 2016. It is located on the second floor of the UC, across from the Food Court.

For more information on the opening, call Hailey Michelson at 406-243-5776 visit the Facebook event page at https://www.facebook.com/events/1205745369511635/.

Contact: Hailey Michelson, program adviser, UM Student Involvement Network and The Branch Center,
Campus Invited to Grand Opening of The Branch Center in the University Center - UM News - University Of Montana

hailey.michelson@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – For the second year running, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana will release its Montana Economic Report, a comprehensive assessment of economic activity in Montana, during its Economic Outlook Seminar series.

The series kicks of Jan. 24 in Helena and will visit nine cities across Montana through March 16.

“Montana Economic Report 2017” will cover topics such as 2016 in review, the U.S. economic outlook, an in-depth look at the Montana economy and assessments of nine key industry sectors in Montana, including technology and innovation, farming and ranching, real estate and residential construction, energy and logistics and transportation, among others.

“We are excited to publish the ‘Montana Economic Report 2017,’ and we believe this edition is an improvement over the inaugural edition,” BBER Director Patrick Barkey said. “The segment on ‘Four Decades of Economic Analysis: How Has BBER Done?’ provides an interesting perspective on BBER’s body of work over the years.”
In an in-depth look at the Montana economy, the report examines how technology is remaking agriculture, the challenges and opportunities facing Montana’s national parks, and trying to solve the puzzle of creating high wage jobs in Montana.

The report will be provided to those attending an Economic Outlook Seminar, where BBER Associate Director Bryce Ward will present the keynote, “The High Wage Jobs Puzzle – Finding Montana’s Place in the New Geography of Jobs.”

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

The seminars run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at all locations except for Kalispell, which will be held from noon to 5 p.m. The full schedule follows:

- **Helena**: Tuesday, Jan. 24, Best Western Great Northern Hotel
- **Great Falls**: Wednesday, Jan. 25, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Missoula**: Friday, Jan. 27, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Billings**: Tuesday, Jan. 31, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
- **Bozeman**: Wednesday, Feb. 1, The Commons at Baxter and Love
- **Butte**: Thursday, Feb. 2, NorthWestern Energy Butte general office
- **Kalispell**: Tuesday, Feb. 7, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Sidney**: Tuesday, March 14, USDA/Agricultural Resources Services office
- **Miles City**: Wednesday, March 15, Sleep Inn & Suites

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

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

Contact: Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, patrick.barkey@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – “Water,” the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area’s newest traveling exhibition, will premiere in Lolo Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 31-Feb. 2.

Created with researchers from the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, “Water” features interactive exhibits and hands-on activities exploring ecosystems science. Highlights of the exhibition include a virtual watershed sandbox, a groundwater model and spectrUM’s popular erosion table.

The exhibition is funded by the Montana National Science Foundation EPSCoR program, with additional funding from the Clark Fork Coalition. The Lolo tour stop is powered by the Jane S. Heman Foundation.

Lolo students will experience guided field trips of “Water” during the school day while the exhibition is in town. Families and friends also are invited to attend a free Family Science Night from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at Lolo Middle School Gymnasium (Building 4).

The spectrUM Discovery Area’s 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 engagement is “to inspire Montana’s next generation about STEM and higher education and to help power a vibrant, homegrown workforce in our state.”

Inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, UM’s spectrUM Discovery Area serves more than 55,000 Montanans annually through in-museum and mobile programs. Since 2006, spectrUM has traveled exhibits and educators to 73 schools and four public libraries in 31 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations in Montana. In total, spectrUM’s mobile science program has served more than 52,000 people. Thirty percent of people spectrUM serves are Native American, and more than 75 percent live in rural communities.

Additional spectrUM sponsors include the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NASA, the Martin Family Foundation, the Montana Space Grant Consortium, the Simons Foundation, the Bonneville Power Administration, GSK-Science in the Summer and the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation.

Contact: Holly Truitt, director, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4872, holly.truitt@umontana.edu.
UM Mansfield Library Now Offers Access to Academic Libraries Statewide

January 20, 2017

MISSOULA – University of Montana students and faculty can now access the library holdings of 16 colleges and universities across the state through a single online search, following the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library’s successful migration to a new library system.

The new system is designed to not only support print materials, but also the majority of digital materials and resources the library purchases.

“This next-generation system presents a single location for users to discover both print and electronic materials with a simple, clear search interface,” said John Greer, the Mansfield Library’s head of technology and systems. “Users are now able to request materials owned by any participating library with just a few clicks and can search the full text of thousands of electronic materials right from the library home page.”

Starting last May, Greer led the major system implementation among academic libraries statewide. The implementation teams, with members from all participating libraries, wrapped up the process of data comparison, cleanups, data testing, system reconfiguration and migration in mid-December.
During winter break, library faculty and staff tested and navigated through the migrated data to ensure the system is ready for full use by UM faculty and students during spring semester. The library plans to use multiple venues to communicate the changes and new system features to ensure a smooth transition.

“Migrating to a new system like this is a huge undertaking, and we encourage feedback,” Greer said. “We will be continuously improving the system as we learn where adjustments are needed.”

“We have been working on this project for several years, from seeking the funds, issuing the RFP, choosing the vendor and implementing the new system,” said Shali Zhang, professor and dean of libraries at UM. “I am very happy to see that the new library system is in place now, which will offer better services to UM faculty and students in their discovery and learning.”

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**Contact:** Shali Zhang, UM dean of libraries, 406-243-6800, shali.zhang@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University Center Gallery at the University of Montana will open the semester with a reception for a new art exhibit from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26.

The UC Gallery will host “The Accumulation of Endlessness” by Aja Sherrard, beginning Jan. 23 and running through Feb. 23. The art exhibition is free and open to the public, and hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be served at the reception.

Sherrard uses her background in contemporary cultural studies to explore ideas of identity formation. Using a host of different mediums, from installations, photography and film to live performance, Sherrard asks the viewer to question who they are.

The UC Gallery, a nonprofit program run by UM’s Student Involvement Network, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information visit the event’s website at https://www.facebook.com/events/168228270288054/.

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Contact: Paige Robinson, UC Gallery student manager, 406-243-5564, Paige.Robinson@mso.umt.edu.
Reading with Award-Winning Poet Slated for Feb. 3 at UM

January 19, 2017

MISSOULA – Acclaimed poet Sandra Lim will read from her award-winning poetry collections at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room at the University of Montana.

Lim, who is the UM Creative Writing Program’s spring semester Hugo Visiting Writer in Poetry, is the author of "The Loveliest Grotesque" and "The Wilderness," which won the 2013 Barnard Women Poets
"In its stern and quiet way, Sandra Lim’s ‘The Wilderness’ is one of the most thrilling books of poetry I have read in many years," wrote poet Louise Gluck, who selects the Barnard award.

A 2015 Pushcart Prize winner, Lim has received fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, the Vermont Studio Center, the Jentel Foundation and the Getty Research Institute. She was born in Seoul, South Korea, and educated at Stanford University, the University of California-Berkeley and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She is an associate professor of English at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell and lives in Cambridge.

Contact: Karin Schalm, program coordinator, UM Creative Writing Program, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana President Sheila Stearns launched spring semester with a State of the University Address focused on tackling UM’s enrollment challenge and producing a new strategic plan.

Stearns gave her presentation Jan. 19 in the University Center Ballroom before a packed house of UM faculty, staff and students and Missoula community members. Her
remarks were followed by an exercise in which attendees brainstormed UM's vision for future success and prioritized University goals.

"'We Are Montana' is not just a slogan," Stearns said. "The University of Montana is proud of its heritage and particularly proud of its students and alumni. We are resilient in the face of current challenges. We are skeptical about quick fixes, and we are fundamentally confident about our future, just as UM President Oscar Craig was over a century ago."

During her talk, Stearns:

- Discussed the challenges of enrollment, budget and UM's process for producing a new strategic plan this spring.
- Highlighted the need to budget conservatively. She said UM needs to make data-driven decisions based on the best assumptions available about enrollment trends. She noted that, due to continued large graduating classes and smaller freshman classes, the downward enrollment trend likely will continue for the next few years.
- Pressed everyone in attendance to think about raising UM's retention rate (from freshmen to sophomore) from the current 70 percent to 80 percent or higher. She said retention is another key piece of the enrollment challenge at UM and a challenge throughout the Montana University System.
- Touched on a continuing theme of "star power" at UM, noting recent accolades of UM faculty members and students.

The slideshow Stearns used during her presentation is online at http://www.umt.edu/president/communication/.

The "visioning exercise" after her remarks was led by UM's Strategic Planning Coordinating Council, which spent this past fall gathering feedback about the current state of the University. The exercise was intended to help design an aspirational statement of what UM wants to be in the future.

“A vision statement defines what our future will look like if we fulfill our mission,” said Brock Tessman, dean of UM's Davidson Honors College. “The statement should inspire and challenge us, providing a view of ourselves that will attract and retain talented faculty, staff and students.”

He also invited exercise participants to prioritize the most important ideas and goals for the vision statement.

Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
University of Montana Ranks No. 5 in North America for Ecology Research Productivity

MISSOULA – The University of Montana ranked No. 5 in North America for its scholarly productivity in the field of ecology, according to a recent study published in the journal Ecosphere.

Ranking ahead of many well-respected research universities such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton, UM’s faculty lead the pack in publications, number of citations and the impact of their research moving the field forward.

“The University of Montana, in terms of its productivity and impact on the broad field of ecology, is in the top 3 percent of research institutions in North America,” said Ric Hauer, director of UM’s Center for Integrated Research on the Environment. “The UM ecology faculty is not only running with the big dogs like Harvard, Stanford and Berkeley – but actually is one of the big dogs.”
Ecology encompasses topics such as global loss of biodiversity, the interface between climate change and plants and animals, and the impact of humanity on the planet, among other issues.

The study, which was conducted by UM alumna Megan Keville under the direction of UM Professor Cara Nelson and Hauer, compared 316 North American academic institutions between the years of 2000 and 2014 and ranked them based on the number of papers published in the top-40 ranked ecology journals worldwide. The study and full rankings are online at http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ecs2.1620/full.

Although the study shows UM ranked No. 5 on the list, when one normalizes the data based on faculty size, UM rises to the No. 1 position in North America. Most other universities in the top 20 have faculty sizes two to five times larger than UM.

One of the most important measures of the highest quality and most impactful research is based on the publishing record and the frequency that the work gets cited by others in the field. By these criteria, UM ecology faculty and their graduate and undergraduate students are among the most high-impact faculty and students of any research university in North America.

“Ecology is not some obscure field that is hyperspecialized – this is a really huge field,” Hauer said. “When you consider that, this ranking is absolutely stunning.

“UM has a reputation in the academic world of being a top-flight institution worldwide in the field of ecology,” Hauer said. “UM faculty members and their students are doing research globally from Greenland to Antarctica, from the Amazon to Africa, and locally from Glacier National Park to Yellowstone National Park.”

UM is able to attract a competitive cohort of graduate and doctorate students. Hauer said students who want to earn degrees in ecology – from theoretical ecology to wildlife biology to ecosystem science and conservation – find UM an extremely attractive place to study.

“The reason for our top ranking is that the University of Montana has been attracting top faculty members in this field for the past three decades,” Hauer said. “Good faculty members insist on recruiting other top faculty members worldwide. As a result, UM has become extremely attractive to the best in the world.

“Undergraduates – not only from Montana, but all over the U.S. who are interested in earning top-flight educations in ecology – can get one of the best undergraduate educations in the country right here at UM,” Hauer said.

Undergraduate students also have opportunities to conduct research and work among the best faculty mentors anywhere in the world. The University offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate degree programs with opportunities for research scholarships and engaging in active research programs and projects.

**Contact:** Ric Hauer, director, Center for Integrated Research on the Environment, 406-250-9900, ric.hauer@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana will introduce a new coalition for business engagement, Accelerate Montana, at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, in the Thompson Auditorium of the Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building.

The launch event, “The Secret Sauce That Turned Israel into ‘The Start-Up Nation,’” will feature speaker Israeli Consul Gen. Andy David, invited by the Montana World Trade Center, and it will be followed by a reception.

Housed in the new Gilkey Building on campus, Accelerate Montana is UM’s center for economic development, entrepreneurship and leadership. It serves Montana businesses through seven programs: Blackstone LaunchPad, the Small Business Development Center, Montana Code School, Montana iLEAD, the Montana Technology Enterprise Center, the Montana World Trade Center and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center.

Members of Accelerate Montana serve different business phases, from startups to established businesses, and link to opportunities both within Montana and outside U.S. borders.

“It’s the hub where people start,” said Joe Fanguy, executive director of Accelerate Montana. “Anyone from a new
entrepreneur to a seasoned exporting CEO can reach out to Accelerate Montana and we can direct them to the specific resource they need.”

Accelerate Montana members collectively reach approximately 700 businesses and entrepreneurs each year, helping to bring tens of millions of dollars in investment capital, grants and contracts to the state of Montana.

“The role of the University in driving economic development is becoming more and more important to the future of both student employment and research growth, and our new umbrella will further accelerate these impacts,” said Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship and dean of the graduate school.

For more information, call Fanguy at 406-243-2148 or visit http://www.acceleratemontana.com.

Contact: Joe Fanguy, executive director, Accelerate Montana at UM, 406-243-2148, joe.fanguy@mso.umt.edu.

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MISSOULA – The Peace Corps recently named Missoula the No. 1 metro area for producing volunteers per capita in 2016.

Out of every 100,000 residents, 12.3 people in Missoula volunteer with the Peace Corps. Missoula previously made the top spot in 2011.

Last year, the University of Montana also became the No. 10 medium-sized university for producing Peace Corps volunteers, ranking on the top-25 list for the 12th time. Currently, 24 alumni volunteer worldwide, for a total of 847 UM volunteers since the Peace Corps’ founding.

“The University of Montana has a long tradition as a top contributor of volunteers who answer the call to serve the mission of world peace and friendship,” said David Reese, Peace Corps supervisory public affairs specialist. “We are grateful and proud of the university’s development of globally aware individuals with the commitment to make a difference through service in host communities around the world as Peace Corps volunteers.”
The state of Montana ranks third among top volunteer-producing states per capita, with five volunteers for every 100,000 residents.

A listing of the 2016 top states and metropolitan areas is online at http://bit.ly/2ibWcJk.

Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps sends Americans abroad to create lasting change within the global community. Through their experience, volunteers develop sustainable solutions to address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development, while gaining a unique cultural understanding and a lifelong commitment to service. More than 225,000 Americans of all ages have served in 140 countries worldwide.


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Contact: Terri Nichols, UM Peace Corps campus representative, 406-243-2839, peacecorps@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Katie Barnes, a culinary arts student at Missoula College University of Montana, will compete for national recognition at the American Culinary Federation’s Student Chef of the Year competition in February.

The competition, which takes place in Joliet, Illinois, is a culinary cook-off where Barnes will prepare a dish alongside 10 other semifinalists from colleges across the nation.

"Winning Student Chef of the Year is the largest achievement you can get as a student competitor," Barnes said.
Competitors range in age from 18 to 25 and will choose to make an entrée or dessert dish, using competition-specified ingredients. Barnes plans to serve up a dessert for the judges and is required to use macadamia nuts, pineapple and banana.

Barnes and her coach, Missoula College chef instructor Thomas Campbell, have spent much of winter break preparing for the February competition.

Barnes credits MC chef instructor Aimee Elliott as the motivation to enter culinary competitions. As a graduate of the college’s Culinary Arts program herself, Elliott has mentored and motivated Barnes to do her best.

“She doesn’t hesitate to begin practice at 5 a.m. and give up her weekends and holiday breaks to learn the most she can as a student culinarian,” Elliott said.

She said the competition will give Barnes the experience she deserves to escalate an already promising career in culinary arts.

Last May, Barnes won a gold medal at another ACF and Washington State Chefs Association culinary competition in Bellingham. More details from that competition are online at https://news.umt.edu/2016/05/052416chef.php.

“Bellingham really sealed the deal for me in terms of competing,” Barnes said. “We practiced every day for that competition. Some days we would be in the kitchen from 4:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. But all of the stress and preparation you do up until competitions is worth it when you finish your dish.”

Barnes said ultimately she wants to learn as much as she can from competing.

“I think competing can make you a better cook and teach you to handle those stressful situations in the kitchen,”
she said. “It’s a lot of work but very rewarding.”

MC is supporting Barnes’ participation in the competition. To support scholarships for culinary arts students or the Culinary Arts program, call Drew Cable, Missoula College development director, at 406-243-2585 or email drew.cable@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Thomas Campbell, Missoula College culinary arts chef instructor, 406-243-7815, thomas.campbell@umontana.edu; Katie Barnes, Missoula College culinary arts student, ktbarnes@live.com.
President’s Lecture Series Continues with ‘Economics and the Art of Strategic Thinking’

January 18, 2017

MISSOULA – Esteemed economist Kaushik Basu will present “Economics and the Art of Strategic Thinking” as part of the 2016-17 President’s Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

Basu, the C. Marks Professor of International Studies and economics professor at Cornell University and former chief economist at World Bank, will deliver the lecture at 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30, in the University Center Ballroom. The lecture is in collaboration with the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center.

Basu also will lead the seminar “The Concept of Power” from 3 to 4:15 p.m. the same day in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. The lecture and seminar both are free and open to the public.

Born in India, Basu went on to the London School of Economics, earning his doctorate in 1976 after working with...
Amartya Sen on choice theory. He then returned to India and became a professor of economics at the Delhi School of Economics.

He has held many visiting professorships all over the world. At Cornell, he teaches courses on economic development, economic theory, industrial organization and political economy.

In addition to his academic work, he had an extraordinary second career serving as India’s chief economic adviser and a term at the World Bank, which ended this past July. During his time at the World Bank, Basu’s highest priority was a campaign that reached out to people living in extreme poverty.

In a 2011 Wall Street Journal interview about his appointment and his past work as India’s chief economic adviser, he said, “People who live in chronic deprivation rarely command our attention. Yet, to reach out to them is the urgent problem of our times. Success on this requires passion, but also and in equal measure, analysis and research. I will try my best to act on both fronts.”

In 2008, the president of India awarded Basu the Padma Bhushan, one of the country’s highest civilian awards, given to recognize distinguished service of a high order in any field.

Basu’s publication record reflects his eclectic intellectual interests and the variety of his professional accomplishments. He has published several scholarly books, papers and reviews, including editing “The Oxford Companion to Economics in India,” and writing “The Less Developed Economy: A Critique of Contemporary Theory,” “Prelude to Political Economy: A Study of the Social and Political Foundations of Economics” and “Analytical Development Economics: The Less Developed Economy Revisited.”

As a sign of the esteem in which he is held for his scholarship, he currently is the president-elect of the International Economic Association and scheduled to take office in June. In addition to his academic publications, he has written for mainstream audiences, most notably “The Retreat of Democracy and Other Itinerant Essays on Globalization” and “Beyond the Invisible Hand: Groundwork for a New Economics.”

Basu has been, as the title of one of his other books puts it, “An Economist in the Real World.”

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

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Contact: Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.

Get Involved
MISSOULA – Jim Hubbard, recently retired U.S. Forest Service deputy chief for state and private forestry, will speak at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at the University of Montana. The event, hosted in the University Center North Ballroom, is free and open to the public.

“Land treatment success today requires scale and priority,” Hubbard said. “Increasingly, this means alignment of mutual objectives through collaborative process. I’ll explore how to focus such efforts.”

Hubbard’s talk, “Crossing Boundaries: A Dialogue of Landscape Outcomes,” is sponsored by an estate gift from Mike and Mabelle Hardy to UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation.

Hubbard served as deputy chief for 11 years. Prior to federal service, he was the Colorado state forester for 20 years. In addition to an emphasis on wildland fire, Hubbard was responsible for forest management and protection based on an all-lands approach.

For more information call the College of Forestry and Conservation at 406-243-5521 or email connect@cfc.umt.edu.
Former US Forest Service Deputy Chief to Speak at UM - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.

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Phone: (406) 243-2522
news@umontana.edu
MISSOULA — The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana will continue its 42nd Annual Economic Outlook Series with presentations in Billings on Tuesday, Jan. 31, Bozeman on Wednesday, Feb. 1 and Butte on Thursday, Feb. 2.

This year’s keynote address is entitled “The High Wage Jobs Puzzle – Finding Montana’s Place in the New Geography of Jobs” and will be presented by BBER Associate Director Bryce Ward.

The program will address the following question: In a time when some well-prepared Montana graduates migrate to out of state locations with developed industries and occupations where skilled, creative workers are abundant, what can Montana possibly do?

“This program examines what these changes might mean for Montana’s economy,” Ward said. “It also questions if Montana, particularly its entrepreneurs, can figure out how to develop a more robust ‘knowledge economy’ – an economy that allows more of Montana’s young, creative and ambitious people to remain in the state.”
Also, with the state Legislature in session, the program will address possible budget reductions. It aims to answer common questions such as: Is the state running out of money? Is Montana's economy in decline?

“These types of questions concerning all Montanans will be addressed throughout the outlook seminars,” said Patrick Barkey, BBER director.

The seminars also will present the U.S., Montana and local area economic outlooks. The programs will highlight a local industry along with other important economic sectors. There will be a panel discussion, moderated by well-known media consultant Ian Marquand, featuring local experts and presenters giving attendees the opportunity to interact and ask questions of the panel.

Registration costs $85, which includes the “Montana Economic Report 2017,” a complimentary USB drive pre-loaded with the PowerPoint presentation slides, a book of the black-and-white PowerPoint presentations, lunch and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER's award-winning business journal. Continuing education credits are available. Groups of five or more can receive a discount by registering online at http://www.bber.umt.edu/.

Also available on Feb. 1, there will be a live-streaming, webcast option from Bozeman. Webcast registration costs $50 and includes all of the above without lunch. Interested participants can register online at https://www.bber-secure.umt.edu/Register2017W.asp.

The seminars run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at all locations except for Kalispell, which will be held from noon to 5 p.m. The schedule follows:

- **Billings**: Tuesday, Jan. 31, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
- **Bozeman**: Wednesday, Feb. 1, The Commons at Baxter and Love
- **Butte**: Thursday, Feb. 2, NorthWestern Energy Butte general office
- **Kalispell**: Tuesday, Feb. 7, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Sidney**: Tuesday, March 14, USDA/Agricultural Resources Services office
- **Miles City**: Wednesday, March 15, Sleep Inn & Suites

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

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

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

###

**Contact:** Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana will begin its 42nd Annual Economic Outlook Series with presentations in Helena on Tuesday, Jan. 24, Great Falls on Wednesday, Jan. 25 and Missoula on Friday, Jan. 27.

This year’s keynote address is entitled “The High Wage Jobs Puzzle – Finding Montana’s Place in the New Geography of Jobs” and will be presented by BBER Associate Director Bryce Ward.

The program will address the following question: In a time when some well-prepared Montana graduates migrate out of state to locations with developed industries and occupations where skilled, creative workers are abundant, what can Montana possibly do?

“This program examines what these changes might mean for Montana’s economy,” Ward said. “It also questions if Montana, particularly its entrepreneurs, can figure out how to develop a more robust ‘knowledge economy’ – an economy that allows more of Montana’s young, creative and ambitious people to remain in the state.”
Also, with the state Legislature in sessions the program will address possible budget reductions. It aims to answer common questions such as: Is the state running out of money? Is Montana's economy in decline?

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The seminars run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at all locations except for Kalispell, which will be held from noon to 5 p.m.

The full schedule follows:

- **Helena**: Tuesday, Jan. 24, Best Western Great Northern Hotel
- **Great Falls**: Wednesday, Jan. 25, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Missoula**: Friday, Jan. 27, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Billings**: Tuesday, Jan. 31, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
- **Bozeman**: Wednesday, Feb. 1, The Commons at Baxter and Love
- **Butte**: Thursday, Feb. 2, NorthWestern Energy Butte general office
- **Kalispell**: Tuesday, Feb. 7, Hilton Garden Inn
- **Sidney**: Tuesday, March 14, USDA/Agricultural Resources Services office
- **Miles City**: Wednesday, March 15, Sleep Inn & Suites

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

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

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

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**Contact:** Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu.
Annual Economic Outlook Seminar Series Headed to Nine Montana Cities - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – A new paper published Jan. 13 in Science reveals that the relationship between soil fungi and tree seedlings is more complicated than previously known. The paper was co-written by Ylva Lekberg, an assistant professor of soil community ecology at the University of Montana.

Lekberg and her collaborators studied 55 species and 550 populations of North American trees. Scientists have long known that plants and soil biota can regulate one another, but the new findings highlight the complexity of the feedback loop.

“Fungi differ in their ability to protect tree seedlings from pathogens, and this has implications for seedling recruitment and therefore forest community patterns,” Lekberg said.
Most plant roots are colonized by mycorrhizal fungi, but tree species associate with different fungal groups. The researchers showed that ectomycorrhizal fungi that form a thick sheet around root tips are better able to protect trees from pathogens than arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi.

Thus, while ectomycorrhizal tree seedlings actually prefer growing next to parent trees, arbuscular mycorrhizal tree seedlings can only establish outside the control of parents' enemies. This can have consequences for how temperate forests are structured and their overall diversity.

"Our findings show that to appreciate the complexity in nature, we need to better understand and consider interactions between plants and soil biota," said Lekberg, who works in UM’s Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation. She also works with the MPG Ranch, a research and conservation organization in Montana's Bitterroot Valley.

Jonathan Bennett, lead author of the paper, is at the University of British Columbia. Other co-authors include Hafiz Maherali from University of Guelph, Kurt Reinhart at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory, and Miranda Hart and John Klironomos from University of British Columbia.

The paper is online at http://science.sciencemag.org/content/355/6321/181.

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**Contact:** Ylva Lekberg, UM adjunct assistant professor of soil community ecology, 406-396-6159, ylva.lekberg@mso.umt.edu.
Soil Fungi Help Tree Seedlings Survive, Influence Forest Diversity - UM News - University Of Montana
Volunteers to Read to Students in Honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

January 12, 2017

MISSOULA – The MLK Read for Peace service project will place volunteers in elementary-school classrooms on Friday, Jan. 13, and Monday, Jan. 16, to read students age-appropriate books about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On Friday, Jan. 13, volunteers will read to nearly 1,800 elementary-age students in 14 schools and 60 classrooms all over Missoula. The impact of Dr. King’s work and life on American history is not often a required part of elementary curriculum. MLK Read for Peace provides students information and an activity about Dr. King, and the activity will be displayed at the Missoula Public Library for the month of February.

This year the University of Montana men’s basketball team also will participate in MLK Read for Peace when they read to third- and fourth-grade classrooms at Hellgate Elementary on Monday, Jan. 16.

Montana Campus Compact facilitates MLK Read for Peace across the state and is proud to offer this national service day opportunity to community members, college students, elected officials and National Service participants across Montana. In 2016, 14 communities statewide participated in the event, reaching nearly 3,000 students.
“Montana is a state that values differences and that works collectively to solve its problems,” said Josh Vanek, MTCC associate director. “Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is a great reminder of the grassroots work that communities regularly undertake to address their biggest challenges.”

For additional information on the Missoula-area events, call MTCC AmeriCorps VISTA Leader Sam Garetson at 406-243-5451 or email garetson@mtcompact.org.

MTCC advances the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. Learn more at http://www.mtcompact.org.

Contact: Sam Garetson, Montana Campus Compact, 406-243-5451, garetson@mtcompact.org.
MISSOULA – University of Montana President Sheila Stearns will address the campus with a State of the University presentation at 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, in the University Center Ballroom.

“In my brief time here at the University, I’ve learned much about where we are, where we want to be, and the importance of our shared governance in working together toward that goal,” Stearns said.

Stearns will take the opportunity to share information and engage the campus and Missoula communities in the planning process of moving the institution forward.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive at 8:30 a.m. to connect with others during an informal coffee social. At the conclusion of her address, attendees can participate in table-based brainstorming sessions related to the current challenges and opportunities facing UM now and into the future.

Events are free and open to the public, and faculty, staff, students and community members are encouraged to attend.
Representatives from UM’s Strategic Planning Coordinating Council will capture outcomes from the session and look for connections to the University’s strategic planning process.

For more information call Assistant to the President Rebecca Power at 406-243-2311 or email rebecca.power@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Veterans of all eras, service members and their family members are invited to learn the skills to become a small-business owner through the Boots to Business Reboot program, which will come to the University of Montana on Friday, Jan. 20.

The free entrepreneurship training program was designed to give veterans, active-duty service members and their families an overview of business ownership as a career, an outline and knowledge of business plan components, a practical exercise in opportunity recognition and an introduction to available public and private sector resources.

“This is an opportunity for veterans and their spouses to pursue being their own boss,” said Shawn Grove, director of UM's Veteran Education Transition Services Office. “This is a really great opportunity for them to learn what it takes.”

The program’s launch event, which will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in University Center Room 333, requires advanced registration online at http://boots2business.org/rebootapply/. Lunch and beverages will be provided. The event is sponsored by the Region VIII Veterans Business Outreach Center and hosted by Big Sky Economic
Veterans Invited to Participate in Entrepreneurship Training Program at UM - UM News - University Of Montana

After program participants complete the Introduction to Entrepreneurship course on Jan. 20, they begin an eight-week online Foundations of Entrepreneurship course instructed by a consortium of professors and practitioners led by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University.

Boots to Business Reboot is a program designed by the U.S. Small Business Administration as a training track within the Department of Defense’s Transition Assistance Program. More information is online at https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ovbd/resources/160511.

To learn more about the Missoula event or to register as a participant, call Mike Waters, Region VIII Veterans Business Outreach Center project support specialist, at 406-869-8411 or email mike@bigskyeda.org.

Contact: Shawn Grove, UM Veteran Education Transition Services Office director, 406-243-5044, shawn.grove@umontana.edu; Mike Waters, project support specialist, Region VIII Veterans Business Outreach Center at Big Sky Economic Development, 406-869-8411, mike@bigskyeda.org.
MISSOULA — MonTECH, a division of the University of Montana Rural Institute, will present “Gleason,” a critically acclaimed documentary that chronicles the life of a former NFL player following his ALS diagnosis, from 7 to 9:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, in the University Center Theater.

The hit documentary from the 2016 Sundance Film Festival goes inside the life of Steve Gleason, the former New Orleans Saints defensive back who, at age 34, was diagnosed with ALS and given a life expectancy of two to five years. Weeks later, Gleason found out his wife, Michel, was expecting their first child.

A video journal that began as a gift for his unborn son expands to chronicle Steve’s determination to get his relationships in order, build a foundation to provide other ALS patients with purpose, and adapt to his declining physical condition using medical technologies that offer the means to live as fully as possible. A preview of the film can be viewed online at https://youtu.be/WgkQU32XSFQ.

The event is free and open to the public, but donations are encouraged. All proceeds benefit Team Gleason, the nonprofit Gleason founded to support the ALS community.
MonTECH provides technology, support and services that improve the quality of life for Montanans with disabilities. For information on MonTECH’s programs and support is available online at http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/.

**Contact:** MonTECH, 406-243-5511, montech@ruralinstitute.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Montana Gov. Steve Bullock has appointed University of Montana Assistant Professor Martha Williams to serve as director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Bullock made the Cabinet announcement Jan. 6.

Williams has taught natural resource law, public land and resources law, and wildlife law at UM’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law. She also co-directed UM’s Land Use and Natural Resources Clinic. Williams said she is thrilled and honored to serve the state in this new role.

“Along with fellow Montanans, I share a passion for our fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources,” she said. “It
feels like a critical time with increasing pressures from invasive species, disease and habitat fragmentation, coupled with the need to get more and more people outdoors and ensure recreational opportunities and access are available – while at the same time supporting landowners."

Williams said she plans to listen, and she hopes to be inclusive, transparent and fair.

“There is a super team in place, and I can’t wait to breathe life into and implement the vision that the agency and its constituents worked hard to develop,” she said.

Previous Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director Jeff Hagener retired in December after 12 years in the role.

“Jeff Hagener left the agency and the resources in a better place,” Williams said. “With a commitment to what makes Montana so special – its people, heritage and places – I’m excited to take the agency’s vision and guide forward in tangible ways.”

Williams has spent her career learning and teaching about fish, wildlife, parks, natural resources and conservation. Before coming to UM, she served as the deputy solicitor for parks and wildlife at the U.S. Department of Interior, where she oversaw legal issues and litigation for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, Williams served as legal counsel for the Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks from 1998 to 2011.

“Through that experience it has been crucial to understand the science and translate it to decision makers and courts,” Williams said. “I also understand how important the context of place is, those who live on the land, the history of its use, interaction with sportsmen and women, and the need for inclusivity.”

Williams received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia and her Juris Doctor with honors from UM’s law school. She plans to continue to stay engaged with UM and its students.

“I have learned so much from my students, and they inspire me to make a difference and build depth in leadership to allow their capabilities to flourish,” Williams said.

**Contact:** Martha Williams, assistant professor, UM Alexander Blewett III School of Law, 406-243-6653, martha.williams@mso.umt.edu.
Rapier Family Foundation’s Gift Supports Culinary Arts at Missoula College

January 10, 2017

MISSOULA – The Rapier Family Foundation has pledged $200,000 toward Missoula College’s Culinary Arts Program.

The gift will equip the program’s production kitchen, where students learn food processing and manufacturing with the latest restaurant-grade equipment and tools. The production kitchen is part of the new Missoula College facility nearing completion on East Broadway.

“The Rapier Family Foundation’s gift will help our award-winning program grow even stronger, allowing our students to learn the full range of culinary arts skills to prepare them for jobs in the industry,” said Shannon O’Brien, dean of Missoula College.

Since its inception in 1967, Missoula College has trained the region’s workforce and helped students take an important step toward a lifetime career. In the past three years, 95 to 100 percent of food service management graduates found jobs upon completing the program.
The family foundation’s gift will have a double impact: in a unique partnership, a portion of the food canned, dried and frozen in the production kitchen will stock the shelves at Missoula Food Bank.

“The partnership with the Culinary Arts Program holds a great deal of promise for our food bank,” said Aaron Brock, executive director of Missoula Food Bank. “More high-quality, nutritious food to stock our shelves will help us meet the growing need for food assistance in our neighborhoods and create a stronger relationship between our food bank – which serves one in six people in Missoula County – and Missoula College, a dynamic educational institution.”

Founded by George Rapier III and his wife, Kym, the Rapier Family Foundation supports child welfare, human services, environmental and education organizations in several locations nationwide, including Montana. This is their first donation to Missoula College.

“When a current culinary arts student who is passionate about cooking and helping others asked my husband, George, and me to donate to the training kitchen, we were excited,” Kym Rapier said. “We are pleased that our contribution will expand the culinary facility and make curricular connections to Missoula Food Bank, promoting a mission to help the food insecure.”

The new Missoula College building will open fall 2017.

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**Contact:** Drew Cable, director of development, Missoula College and University Initiatives, UM Foundation, 406-243-2585, drew.cable@mso.umt.edu.
UM’s MMAC Provides Uncommon Opportunity to Celebrate Montana Women Artists

January 10, 2017

MISSOULA – Later this month, the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at the University of Montana will open a special exhibition focused on pioneering women artists who came to Montana at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, and significantly contributed to the aesthetic and cultural milieu of the state.

“Intimate West: Women Artists in Montana 1880-1944” will be on display from Thursday, Jan. 26, to Saturday, May 27, in the Meloy and Paxson galleries located in UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

The exhibition contains a selection of paintings and photographs that differs from typical Western iconography.
“The works on display do not extol the grandeur of Montana’s geography or mythologize its bison or cowboys,” said Jeremy Canwell, MMAC’s Curator and Exhibitions Coordinator. “Instead, these artists explore a different vision of Montana.”

The exhibition shows scenes from the early years of statehood, working spontaneously from life or documenting historical moments such as Missoula’s 1908 flood and the first airplane flight in the state over Butte in 1911. Artist Frances Carroll Brown brought a particular style influenced by French impressionism and the Fauves to her numerous portraits in the exhibition. Petite landscapes by Josephine Hale similarly adapt European techniques to uniquely Western subjects, including Glacier National Park and the Missouri River.

Canwell selected works for the show from the museum’s Permanent Collection, a cornerstone of which is the Fra Dana collection. Dana’s still-life paintings contemplate domestic interiors, which depict shelter from the natural environment for homesteaders like her and her husband during Montana’s harsh winters.

Works by artists who participated in the Winold Reiss Summer School in Glacier National Park, including Elsa Jemne, Elizabeth Lochrie and Caroline Granger, portray individual Native Americans with whom the artists spent time as they traveled around the Northern Rocky Mountain West.

Along with several of Evelyn Cameron’s photographs of ranch life, the Montana Historical Society generously lent many of these works to MMAC for the exhibition. Historical photographs by Alice Chandler, Marguerite O. Stevens Maloney and Mamie Elizabeth Burt will also be on view courtesy of the Archives & Special Collections at UM’s Mansfield Library.

“This exhibition brings to light the merits of some of Montana’s under-celebrated artists,” said Barbara Koostra, MMAC’s Suzanne and Bruce Crocker director. “We are proud to build the awareness of their record of the West.”

The exhibition “Intimate West: Women Artists in Montana 1880-1944” will open to the public with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, in UM’s PAR/TV Center.

Additional programming will be held in conjunction with the
exhibition. All events are free and open to the public. The schedule follows:

- **5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22**: A guided tour of the exhibition by Canwell, PAR/TV Meloy and Paxson galleries.

- **7-9 p.m. Thursday, March 9**: Screening of the 1979 film “Heartland,” PAR/TV Masquer Theatre. A Q-and-A with Executive Producer Annick Smith and writer/co-Producer Beth Ferris will follow.

- **5-6 p.m. Thursday, March 30**: Stephanie Frostad will lead a guest artist tour, offering insights of a contemporary Montana artist.

- **5-6 p.m. Thursday, April 13**: UM Women's Studies Adjunct Assistant Professor Beth Hubble will present her lecture, “Art is Not a Luxury: Women and the Production of Art,” PAR/TV Masquer Theatre.

- **Noon-1 p.m. Thursday, May 4**: Anne Foster of Humanities Montana will give a presentation, “Fashioning Montana: Clothing and Culture in the Victorian and Edwardian Eras Thursday,” PAR/TV Masquer Theatre.

A publication of the same name will accompany the exhibition, which has generously been funded in part by the Morris and Helen Silver Foundation and the Bill and Rosemary Gallagher Foundation.

MMAC’s gallery hours are from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, and from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday. The museum is closed Sundays, Mondays and UM holidays. The museum is open to the public with a suggested $5 donation. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit [http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/](http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/).
Contact: Barbara Kostra, Suzanne and Bruce Crocker director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, barbara.kostra@mso.umt.edu; Jeremy Canwell, MMAC curator of art, 406-243-2019, jeremy.canwell@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Celebrate 100th Foresters’ Ball With Music by Reckless Kelly

January 10, 2017

MISSOULA – A 100-year-old tradition at the University of Montana, the Foresters’ Ball, will celebrate its centennial with performances by musicians Reckless Kelly and Steve Frame on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 3-4, in Schreiber Gymnasium. The dance will run from 7 p.m. to midnight both nights.

Students spend the week before transforming the gym into a turn-of-the-century logging town with a saloon, general store, jail, chapel and museum. This year’s theme, “Choppin’ Wood and Lookin’ Good,” was selected by Chief Push Kate Page, a senior majoring in forestry from John Day, Oregon.

“We had to do something spectacular to celebrate a century of the Foresters’ Ball, so that’s why we brought in a band like Reckless Kelly,” Page said.

“The Foresters’ Ball, so steeped in history, has been a wonderful
memory for generations of UM students, and we wanted to make this one especially great."

Tickets are on sale online now at GrizTix (http://www.umt.edu/griztix/) and will be available the week of Jan. 30 in the University Center. Tickets are available to the public, and the community is invited to attend. For those who want to see the Foresters’ Ball “town” before the event, it’s open to the public from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Reckless Kelly is an Austin-based band led by Cody and Willy Braun. Their song “Radio” was named song of the week in November by Alt Root Magazine. Their 2016 release Sunset Motel debuted at No. 8 on the Billboard Americana/Folk Albums Chart and No. 12 on the Billboard Country Albums Chart. Additionally, the band debuted at No. 1 on the Texas Regional Radio Report Chart. In 2013, their album Long Night Moon received a Grammy for Best Recording Package.

Wyoming musician Steve Frame also will perform both nights of the ball, along with Benjo.

Sobriety is a condition of entry to the Foresters’ Ball. Bags will be checked, and all alcohol will be confiscated. However, a beer garden will be offered from 7:30 to 10 p.m. both nights. Attendees 21 and older can purchase beer that must be consumed in the beer garden.

Proceeds from the event fund scholarships for students who put in at least 80 hours of work planning, constructing and taking down the venue. Students and alumni started working in September to cut the slabs used to construct the ball. Construction begins the Monday before the ball and runs 12 hours a day, up to an hour before Friday’s dance.

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**Contact:** Kate Page, 100th Foresters’ Ball chief push, 541-792-0417, katelynpage@live.com; Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Department of Physics and Astronomy invites the public to its spring semester planetarium shows in The Payne Family Native American Center Star Gazing Room this month through May.

The 50-minute shows will be offered at 6:30 and 8 p.m. Fridays on the following dates: Jan. 20; Feb. 3 and 17; March 3, 17 and 31; April 14 and 28; and May 12.

Tickets cost $6 for adults and $4 for children ages 12 and under, and are available for purchase at http://hs.umt.edu/physics/Outreach/default.php. The maximum capacity for public shows is 28 people, so tickets are limited. Shows often sell out far in advance, and tickets cannot be purchased at the door.

Each program will take attendees on a tour of the current night skies of Missoula, pointing out noteworthy objects, constellations, planets or upcoming events visible in the night sky. The show then will shift to engaging topics chosen by that evening’s presenter.
Attendees should plan to arrive 10 minutes before the beginning of the show to check in. The planetarium entrance will be locked after the show begins. As part of the Elouise Cobell Land and Culture Institute, UM’s planetarium is housed in the Star Gazing Room in the basement of the Native American center.

The UM Department of Physics and Astronomy is currently scheduling spring semester shows for youth and student groups, as well as private/community-based groups. For more information about booking a group event, visit http://hs.umt.edu/physics/Outreach/default.php.

Contact: Mark Reiser, outreach coordinator, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy, 406-243-2074, mark.reiser@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The English Language Institute at the University of Montana has successfully obtained accreditation from the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA). This is the program's first accreditation from CEA.

“By pursuing and achieving accreditation, UM's English Language Institute has demonstrated that it meets the CEA standards for English language programs for its quality and commitment to pursuing excellence,” said Paulo Zagalo-Melo, UM’s associate provost for global century education.

ELI, created by UM in the early 1990s, earned the highest level of accreditation given to an intensive English language program. Earning the accreditation demonstrates that the program conforms to standards in the field, generating more opportunities for enrollment.

The program put itself through a rigorous peer review process, demonstrating to a team of professionals during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services to students that are measurable, accountable and of the highest quality. The accreditation period will run through December 2017.
ELI serves non-native English speakers who wish to improve their language and academic skills to pursue personal, professional and academic goals at UM or another institution of higher learning. To learn more about ELI, visit http://www.umt.edu/global-engagement/english-language-institute/default.php.

For more information call Zagalo-Melo at 406-243-6818 or email paulo.zagalo-melo@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Paulo Zagalo-Melo, UM associate provost for global century education, 406-243-6818, paulo.zagalo-melo@umontana.edu.
UM’s Montana Business Quarterly Highlights Economic Impact of the Bakken Bust

January 06, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research reports on several of the state’s current economic issues and trends in the latest edition of Montana Business Quarterly.

In an article titled “From Boom to Bust – the Economic Impact of the Bakken,” BBER Emeritus Director Paul Polzin examines the history of the Bakken from the beginning of the boom in 2011 through the present, as well as the economic impact of the boom-bust cycle on the communities of Sidney, Montana, and Williston, North Dakota. According to Polzin, “the big news is not that these local economies started to decline, but that they have not declined more.”

“The advanced technology utilized in the Bakken has created a moderate break-even price between the low-cost Middle East petroleum and the capital intensive projects like the Canadian Tar Sands,” Polzin writes.
The Montana Business Quarterly also contains an article written by Bryce Ward, BBER’s associate director, titled “Picking the Right College: What can we learn about college quality from the average earnings of its students?”

Nate Hegyi’s article, “One Beer at a Time,” follows Montana’s craft brewing industry which shows no signs of slowing down.

“Traveler Spending” by Norma Nickerson and Kara Grau of UM’s Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research looks at the spending tendencies of travelers visiting Montana. The article examines the economic impact of “geotravelers” — those who care about Montana’s well-being, our scenic and natural qualities, our culture and heritage, and what it’s like to be a Montanan. These geotravelers purchase local products and services and keep dollars local, according to the study.

Established in 1948, BBER is the main research unit of UM’s School of Business Administration. It informs Montanans about the economic climate in which they live and work. In addition to conducting its Economic Outlook Seminars across the state each year, BBER researchers engage in a wide range of applied research projects that address different aspects of the state economy, including survey research, economic analysis, health care research, forecasting, wood products research and energy research. It has published the Montana Business Quarterly since 1949.

For more information or to subscribe to the Montana Business Quarterly, visit BBER at http://www.bber.umt.edu/ or call 406-243-5113.

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Contact: Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, pat.barkey@business.umt.edu.
UM Students Spend Winter Session Studying Climate Change in Vietnam

January 06, 2017

MISSOULA – Eight students and one professor from the University of Montana are in Vietnam through Jan. 19 to study climate change impacts and adaptation in the Mekong Delta for the seventh annual Winter Session in Vietnam study abroad field course.

Accompanied by Nicky Phear, program coordinator of UM’s Climate Change Studies Program, students study with Vietnamese experts; explore national park lands with Vietnamese guides and park rangers; and work alongside Vietnamese farmers who all see the impacts of climate change and who are innovating new ways to address its effects on Vietnamese agriculture, forestry, water, eco-tourism and society.

Students are sharing their experiences at the Deep in the Delta: Stories from Vietnam blog online at
https://umvietnamstudy.wordpress.com/.

During the program, as they visit the forests, rivers, islands, deltas and peat swamps in Vietnam's southern provinces, participants experience how local researchers, farmers and activists are changing how Vietnam approaches climate change through projects like implementing biogas systems on farms for energy production, reclaiming damaged or lost farmland and wildlands by removing invasive species and replanting natural habitat, conserving wildlife in national parks, and linking Vietnam's economic and environmental health by developing eco-tourism.

"Seeing the innovation in climate change adaptation, in a country far less economically poised than the U.S., was both humbling and inspiring," said 2015 Winter Session in Vietnam participant Shanti Johnson. "As we continue to debate climate science locally, in Vietnam, people are already meeting it head-on with ideas that are so simple, yet brilliant – and I've been telling people about them.

"A trip that, for me, started as a whim has now resulted in three years of study and work in Southeast Asia. I have to laugh, because I never thought a winter session course would have that effect."

The seven-year program has sent more than 75 students to Vietnam for its field-based, experiential classes. Designed to be both an in-depth study and accessible to students from all majors, the program has provided the opportunity to study abroad for students from a diverse array of fields including environmental studies, resource conservation, business, political science, biology, chemistry, journalism and law.

One of the first programs of its kind in the U.S., Winter Session in Vietnam was launched in 2011 with a grant from the U.S. Department of State. The program has continued to grow during the past six years, building on UM and the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center's strong institutional ties with Vietnam.

The Mansfield Center at UM promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield (1903-2001) and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. The center houses programs that focus on the peoples and cultures of modern Asia and ethics in public affairs – the core interests and hallmarks of Sen. Mansfield's career.
Contact: Caitlin Sager, program coordinator, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Montana Campus Compact, a 17-campus higher education network that promotes civic and social responsibility, recently awarded its Civic Engagement Scholarship to seven students across the state.

The scholarship winners were selected from a highly competitive group of 32 applicants for their contributions to community life in Montana and beyond.

“Every applicant is doing exemplary service work and making significant differences in their institutions, communities and the world,” said Kathy Peters, Montana Campus Compact’s office manager.

The scholarships are awarded to current students who have completed a significant community-based service effort while pursuing a degree or certificate. The Civic Engagement Scholarship was awarded to the following students:

- **Gabriel Aponte, Rocky Mountain College, Billings.** Aponte is a sophomore with a triple major in business, environmental science and environmental management and policy. As president of the Environmental Club at RMC, Aponte has helped run the campus recycling and BikeRMC programs, raised funds for 10 students to
Montana Students Awarded Civic Engagement Scholarships

Dawn Holt, Blackfeet Community College, Browning. Holt will receive her associate of arts degree in addictions studies in spring 2017, and she plans to become a licensed addiction counselor. She actively works with individuals recovering from substance abuse; elders; at-risk youth; and the homeless population; and within her community to preserve the Blackfeet way of life.

Rachel Juel, Montana State University, Bozeman. Juel is a junior honors student majoring in science and biochemistry. After graduation she plans to volunteer for the Peace Corps as a biology or science teacher, before returning to school to earn a master’s degree and possibly a doctorate. Her volunteer work includes teaching people with disabilities how to ski, sharing her love of science in elementary and high schools throughout Montana through the STEM Space Public Outreach Team, being a group leader for a daylong STEM camp for young girls called Extending Your Horizons, and traveling to Haiti to work alongside locals constructing houses, establishing gardens and assisting in a traveling medical clinic.

Chris O’Bleness, University of Montana, Missoula. O’Bleness will graduate from UM’s Doctor of Pharmacy Program in spring 2017. He plans to continue his community service as a practicing pharmacist to medically underserved populations. Throughout college he has volunteered at the Poverello Center and Missoula Food Bank. For three years he served at the crisis center at UM, and as student director of Advocates for Non-Violence, he worked to raise awareness about violence and assault, and was a guest speaker at the 2015 Not in Our State Sexual Assault Summit.

Emily Schaff, Rocky Mountain College, Billings. Schaff is a junior majoring in communications studies with minors in business management and organizational leadership. She has been a volunteer for the Office of Community Engagement and the Office of Spiritual Life on campus. Through these campus offices she has created many volunteer opportunities for her peers, as well as participated in them. These events include Halloween for Hunger and No Kid Hungry campus campaigns, and fundraising efforts for local elementary schools. Through the Montana Special Olympics she created a campus Special Olympics club and a Respect Rally to help raise awareness about the harms of using derogatory terms.

Ashlin Staso, UM, Missoula. Staso will graduate in spring 2017 with a bachelor of science degree in exercise science, health and human performance. She plans to continue her education by attending graduate school and eventually wants to become a physician assistant. Staso has volunteered in children’s after-school programs and served as a peer mentor to incoming freshmen through the Davidson Honors College. She traveled to Antigua, Guatemala, to participate in a number of service projects, including building homes for poor families and visiting with children at a local orphanage. She also has volunteered as a camp counselor for children with muscular dystrophy, and has volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Missoula for several years. She also was elected as a student representative to attend the National Student Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C.

Amber Williamson, Blackfeet Community College, Browning. Williamson will graduate in spring 2017 with an associate of arts degree in social work and plans to continue pursuing her social work degree at UM. Williamson’s volunteer work has been with late- and end-stage cancer patients, domestic violence issues, suicide prevention and addiction reduction. Once she receives her bachelor’s degree in social work, she plans to attend graduate school and become a licensed social worker.
to move back to her home to continue serving her community in these same areas.

For more information about Montana Campus Compact and its programs and initiatives, visit http://www.mtcompact.org.

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**Contact:** Kathy Peters, office manager, Montana Campus Compact, 406-243-5135, peters@mtcompact.org.
George Dennison, the longest-serving president of the University of Montana and one of the most impactful educators in the history of the state, died Jan. 3, 2017, due to complications from non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He was 81.

George was born Aug. 11, 1935, in Buffalo Hart, Illinois, to Earl and Irene Dennison. He was the second-oldest of six brothers, and the family moved to Montana in 1936. George grew up in the Kila area and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1953. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1953 to 1957.

George married Kalispell native Jane Schroeder in 1954, and their 62-year union produced two sons: Robert, a retired teacher and coach in Tecumseh, Kansas, now working in information technology, and Rick, the offensive coordinator for the Denver Broncos.

George first dabbled in higher education at Miles (City) Community College, where he earned an associate of arts degree in 1960. He then began a lengthy relationship with UM in Missoula, where he earned a B.A. in history with highest honors in 1962 and a history master’s degree in 1963. He earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington in 1967.
George launched his career as a historian and college educator from 1967 to 1969 at the University of Arkansas and the University of Washington. He then worked 18 years at Colorado State University in positions ranging from assistant professor to associate academic vice president and director of admissions and records. He burnished his administrative credentials from 1987 to 1990 as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Western Michigan University. After a national search, he was inaugurated as the 16th UM president on Aug. 15, 1990. He would lead his alma mater for two decades.

His tenure as president was a time of sustained growth and accomplishment for UM. Student enrollment increased nearly 50 percent, from 10,055 in 1990 to nearly 15,000 in 2009. Always an advocate for Native American inclusivity, he worked to grow Native enrollment from 239 to 569. He also built a culture of philanthropy across campus and among UM alumni and friends, increasing the campus endowment from $17.3 million to $120 million. He completed two fundraising campaigns for buildings, scholarships and other campus needs. The second, the “Invest in Discovery” campaign from 2002 to 2007, is the most successful fundraising campaign ever launched by a Montana nonprofit. In addition, George started Partnering for Student Success, an initiative to increase retention and graduation rates by better preparing and supporting students. He also led the effort to create the Montana Campus Compact, a statewide coalition to further campus-based public service, founded the Montana Commission on Community Service and was a charter signer of the American Colleges and University Presidents Climate Commitment.

Some jokingly accused George of having an “edifice complex” for all the new construction on campus during his tenure. The University added 1.3 million square feet, which equates to 20 percent more total usable space. Building projects completed include the Davidson Honors College, the Gallagher Business Building, Pantzer Hall, the Todd Building, the Fitness and Recreation Center, Don Anderson Hall, the Phyllis J. Washington Education Center, The Payne Family Native American Center, three expansions of Washington-Grizzly Stadium and several renovations of existing buildings. In May 2012, the University Theatre was renamed the George and Jane Dennison Theatre in recognition of their many contributions to UM.

In 1999, George was awarded the Leadership Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. He was Montana Ambassadors Educator of the Year in 2005 and earned the Montana Excellence in Leadership Award in 2007. Universities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan presented him honorary doctorates, and he earned the Governor’s Humanities Award in 2009. UM presented him with a Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2013. Additionally, George served on the board of directors at the International Heart Institute and the board of directors at the Montana Historical Society. Blackfeet Chief Earl Old Person gave George the name “Fast Buffalo Horse” for his service to Native students.

His extensive curriculum vitae mentions scores of presentations, research reports, publications and special administrative assignments. He is the author of two books: “The Dorr War: Republicanism on Trial, 1831-1861,” which was runner-up for the Frederick Jackson Turner Award in 1976, and “Montana’s Pioneer Naturalist: Morton J. Elrod,” which was published this past September by the University of Oklahoma Press.

At UM he was known for his unique lifestyle: running 4 miles before sunrise, arriving first on campus to work long days and only eating one meal in the evening. He would drink massive amounts of coffee and snack during meetings. He didn’t believe in driving slowly, and he was passionate about Grizzly Athletics and golf.

After retiring from the UM presidency, George worked for the University’s O’Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West. He also returned to his roots as a historian, researching and working on a history of UM.
In a farewell message he penned in UM’s Montanan magazine, George wrote, “I have enjoyed every moment of the time I have had the privilege to serve as president of my alma mater.”

George is survived by his wife, Jane, two sons and daughters-in-law: Robert and Diann and Rick and Shannon, seven grandchildren and one great-grandson. A celebration of George’s life will be held in May 2017. For those wishing to make a contribution in George’s honor, the family suggests the University of Montana Foundation to support renovations for the George and Jane Dennison Theatre or a donation to the charitable organization of choice.

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Contact: .
MISSOULA – George M. Dennison, who served as president of the University of Montana from 1990 to 2010, died Tuesday, Jan. 3, after a battle with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He was 81.

“George was not only our longest-serving president, he was among our finest,” UM President Sheila Stearns said. “With his expansive vision, tenacity and optimism, he seemed to think the University of Montana could take over the world. That confidence was always half-scary and completely contagious. The University of Montana has lost a wonderful champion, and I’ve lost a dear friend.”

Dennison passed away the morning of Jan. 3 surrounded by family. His family is planning for
a celebration of life in May, and details will be shared as they become available.

Dennison began a lengthy relationship with UM in Missoula by earning a B.A. in history with highest honors in 1962 and a history master's degree in 1963. He earned his history Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1967.

His tenure as UM president was a time of sustained growth and accomplishment. Student enrollment increased nearly 50 percent, from 10,055 in 1990 to nearly 15,000 in 2009. The University also added 1.3 million square feet during his tenure as president, which equates to 20 percent more total usable space. He also built a culture of philanthropy among UM alumni and friends, increasing the campus endowment from $17.3 million to $120 million. He completed two fundraising campaigns for buildings, scholarships and other needs.

He was awarded many awards and honors during his career, and his extensive curriculum vitae mentions scores of presentations, research reports, publications and special administrative assignments. He is the author of two books, including “Montana’s Pioneer Naturalist: Morton J. Elrod,” which was published this past September by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Read Dennison's full obituary here.

Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
UM Mourns Death of Longest-Serving President - UM News - University Of Montana