October 2017 news releases

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October 2017 News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/31/2017</td>
<td>UM Lecture to Explore Irish Coastal Villages</td>
<td>Anna Prentiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/30/2017</td>
<td>Banff Film Festival to Return to UM</td>
<td>Andi Armstrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27/2017</td>
<td>MontanaPBS to Air New ‘Backroads of Montana’ Episode Nov. 6</td>
<td>William Marcus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/26/2017</td>
<td>UM Blackstone LaunchPad Startups Participate in National Training Camp</td>
<td>Paul Gladen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/26/2017</td>
<td>Research: Human Use Shrinking the Great Salt Lake</td>
<td>Johnnie Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19/2017</td>
<td>UM Davidson Honors College Provides Home Dinners for New Students</td>
<td>Brock Tessman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/26/2017</td>
<td>Tickets to Go on Sale for Live Show of Best-Selling Toy Brand ‘Shopkins’</td>
<td>Will Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/2017</td>
<td>MUS Summit Aims to Increase College Retention, Graduation</td>
<td>John Cech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/2017</td>
<td>UM Websites, Web Managers Earn Pinecone Awards</td>
<td>Nick Shontz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/2017</td>
<td>12th Annual Diversity Event Returns to UM</td>
<td>Cal Reynolds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/23/2017</td>
<td>Renowned Researcher to Speak in Missoula to Commemorate Anniversary of King Tut’s Tomb Discovery</td>
<td>Kelly Dixon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10/11/2017 - Business Publication Examines the American Prairie Reserve, World Economic Outlook - Scott Hawk

10/10/2017 - Wilderness Institute Hosts Conversation with Conservation Advocate - Joanna Campbell

10/09/2017 - Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Returns to UM's Adams Center Nov. 21 - Alexis Schreder

10/06/2017 - Internships Established for Health Behavior Coach Certificate - Kayli Julius

10/05/2017 - UM, Missoula Folklore Societies to Host Town and Gown Dance - Vicki Watson

10/05/2017 - UM to Hold Talk on Dementia-Friendly Communities - Terry Egan

10/04/2017 - UM Paleontology Center to Celebrate National Fossil Day - Kallie Moore

10/04/2017 - Montana High Tech Jobs Summit Comes to UM Oct. 9 - Katie Waldman

10/04/2017 - UM Research Center Surveys Military Bases for Four Potential Federally Listed Species - Mona Nazeri

10/04/2017 - Pulitzer-Winning Writer to Lecture at UM Upon Earning Distinguished Alumni Award - Karin Schalm

10/03/2017 - UM Hires Bodnar as 18th President - Paula Short

10/03/2017 - Honor the Past, Shape the Future at UM Homecoming Oct. 8-14 - Angela Weisenburger

10/03/2017 - Annual Pollner Lecture to Reveal Role of Confidential Sources in Journalism - Larry Abramson

10/02/2017 - New UM Faculty Member Lands $1.8 Million Grant to Study Intracellular Bacteria that Infect Most Insects - Brandon Cooper

10/02/2017 - Historian to Lecture on Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War - Jeff Wiltse

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Quick Links
News Archive
Events Calendar
UM Lecture to Explore Irish Coastal Villages

October 31, 2017

MISSOULA – An expert on Irish tenant-farming will present a lecture Friday, Nov. 3, at the University of Montana.

Ian Kuijt, a professor of archaeology at the University of Notre Dame, will present “Living on the Landlord’s Island: Island Homes, Fishing and Improvement in 18th to 20th Century Irish Coastal Villages” from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Jeannette Rankin Hall Room 202.

Sponsored by UM’s Department of Anthropology, the event is free and open to the public. It should appeal to
historians, anthropologists, archaeologists and anyone interested in Irish history.

Kuijt will discuss the material linkages between the transition around 1900 from tenant-farming under control of the landlord to individual ownership, as well as the material footprint of a national policy of improvement as seen through the lens of changing residential housing.

Drawing upon ethnoarchaeology, vernacular architecture and village phasing, detailed historical maps, ownership records and detailed computer mapping, his research presents a multidimensional exploration of national improvement policy and changing material life within Irish Island communities.

Kuijt directs the Coastal Landscapes of the Irish Coast project. More information about the project is online at http://ntnda.me/2iMKESt.

###

Contact: Anna Prentiss, UM anthropology professor, 406-243-6152, anna.prentiss@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Missoula will have the chance to see award-winning outdoor films as the Banff Festival of Mountain Films returns to the University of Montana Dennison Theatre at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12.

Tickets cost $20 in advance or $23 the day of the event. They are available for purchase at the Outdoor Program, located on the northeast corner of UM’s Fitness and Recreation Center, and The Trail Head, located in downtown Missoula at 221 E. Front St. Admission includes the films and a raffle entry.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour showcases some of the world’s best mountain films and is organized by the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, located in the Canadian Rocky Mountains of Alberta. Each year, the Banff World Tour team licenses around 30 films featuring a range of styles and themes, including climbing, skiing, kayaking, biking, adventure, culture and the environment. Six to 10 films are chosen for each location based upon local interests.

Sponsors for the 2017-18 tour include National Geographic, The North Face, Clif Bar & Company, Deuter, World Expeditions, Kicking Horse Coffee, Bergans of Norway, Treksta, Lake Louise Ski Resort, Mammut, Petzl, Banff & Lake Louise Tourism and Mountain House.
The Missoula stop is hosted by the Outdoor Program and The Trail Head. For more information call Andi Armstrong, assistant director of operations and marketing for UM Campus Recreation, at 406-243-2806 or email andrea.armstrong@umontana.edu.

###

**Contact:** Andi Armstrong, assistant director of operations and marketing, UM Campus Recreation, UM Campus Recreation.
MISSOULA – MontanaPBS producers hit the road again to highlight stories throughout the state in the latest episode of “Backroads of Montana,” set to air at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6.

On the award-winning travelogue’s new episode, titled “Rich with Tradition,” MontanaPBS unravels a Montana curiosity steeped in legend and myth. “Backroads” visits Virginia City for the final chapter in one of Montana’s infamous legends – “Clubfoot” George Lane.

“Backroads” then follows a Montana family on their adventure through a corn maze near Bozeman. The Bos farm carves a fanciful design out of a two-and-a-half acre corn field that makes people scratch their heads but come out smiling.

Viewers will fill up on the delightful delicacies from the Windmill Village Bakery in Ravalli. Nancy and David Martin have taken a secret family donut recipe and made it hard for anyone to drive past their bakery without stopping for a treat.
“Backroads” profiles a Glasgow man who has changed careers and found success. Ben Boreson used his 30 years as a mechanic to creatively transform his garage into the Busted Knuckle Brewery, which sports a uniquely automotive design for folks to sample his brews.

William Marcus will host the program from the Stonehenge Air Museum near Fortine. In addition to a full-scale replica of Stonehenge, the museum boasts a wide variety of vintage aircraft, including the interesting “Inflatoplane.”

“We have more surprises and more mysteries on this episode,” Marcus said. “We hope viewers will come along for the ride.”

MontanaPBS (KUFM-TV in Missoula, KUSM-TV in Bozeman, KUKL-TV in Kalispell, KBGS-TV in Billings, KUGF-TV in Great Falls and KUHM-TV in Helena) is a service of the University of Montana and Montana State University. For more information, visit http://www.montanapbs.org/.

###

Contact: William Marcus, “Backroads of Montana” host, 406-544-8618, william.marcus@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Two University of Montana Blackstone LaunchPad entrepreneurs, along with other top college entrepreneurs from around the world, visited New York City for the Blackstone LaunchPad Techstars Training Camp on Oct. 17-18.

The Blackstone Charitable Foundation selected George Gaines, founder of Chilton Skis, and Kyle Pucko, co-founder of GeoFli, to attend the two-day training camp with workshops and mentoring from Techstars Worldwide Entrepreneur Network and top venture capitalists.

Two students from each campus Blackstone LaunchPad program worldwide attended this first joint training camp held by Blackstone LaunchPad and Techstars.

During the camp, experts spoke on specific topics related to entrepreneurship, and Techstars mentors held sessions with the entrepreneurs. Gaines, a forest and conservation sciences doctoral student at UM, was among seven student finalists who pitched their startups for an award of $15,000 during Demo Day.
“It’s an awesome opportunity for exposure, networking, learning and kicking it in Manhattan for a few days,” Gaines said.

Chilton Skis, founded by Gaines, is a Missoula-based, all-mountain ski manufacturer. While many skis are made using environmentally unsustainable methods, Chilton Skis are made from salvaged and sustainably harvested woods and modern composite materials. Gaines took third place in the 2016 John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge, Montana’s only statewide startup competition for higher education students. To learn more about Chilton skis, go to http://chiltonskis.us/.

GeoFli – developed by Pucko, a UM alumnus, and UM IT web services manager Nick Shontz – is a cloud-based service that allows clients to easily personalize website content based on visitor location and create individualized user experiences. Pucko took third place in the 2015 John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge at UM with his GeoFli pitch. For more information on GeoFli, visit http://www.geofli.com/.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to showcase two of Montana’s startups – one that puts an innovative, sustainable twist on our love of the outdoors and the other highlighting our emerging status as a high-tech hub,” said Paul Gladen, UM Blackstone LaunchPad director, who also attended the training camp.

Blackstone LaunchPad is an entrepreneurial program located on 20 campuses globally and accessible to more than 500,000 students. Blackstone LaunchPad at UM offers free assistance for students, alumni, faculty and staff in turning their ideas, skills and passions into real-world businesses and nonprofit organizations through individualized coaching and venture creation support.

For those wanting to learn more about Blackstone LaunchPad’s programs or events, email Jenny Lind, Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA member at Blackstone LaunchPad UM, at lind@mtcompact.org.

Contact: Paul Gladen, director, Blackstone LaunchPad at UM, 406-243-5723, paul.gladen@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A University of Montana geosciences professor emeritus recently contributed to research that reveals human water consumption, rather than long-term climate change, has greatly reduced the size of Utah’s Great Salt Lake.
Johnnie Moore said the work of his multiagency team shows the Great Salt Lake is shrinking as a result of human water use upstream. The team’s analysis indicates that water consumption has lowered the lake by about 11 feet, representing a reduction of lake volume of 48 percent.

“Continued removal of moisture from the Great Salt Lake will cause huge direct ecological effects, as well as economic and social losses, for 2 million people in the nearby Salt Lake metropolitan area,” Moore said. “These are problems occurring worldwide as nearly all saline lakes are desiccated by human actions.”

The work was published online by Nature Geoscience at https://www.nature.com/articles/ngeo3052.

“Although not often thought of as important, Earth’s large saline lakes provide a wide range of benefits to humans and wildlife,” he said. “But these unique environments are under threat as saline lakes worldwide shrink at alarming rates, reducing wildlife habitat and economic benefits while threatening human health.”

Moore said the Great Salt Lake produces $1.32 billion per year from mineral extraction, brine shrimp cyst production, and recreation. Its abundant food and wetlands attract millions of shorebirds and several million migrating waterfowl, making it a mecca for bird watching and hunting.

He said there is a tendency for many water managers and users to invoke climate change as the culprit for the decline of saline lakes. Although climate change has an impact, water development in arid basins represents a larger and more immediate challenge.

“Saving these unique and important resources will come only from reductions in consumptive water use by improved efficiency,” Moore said. “We also need a much deeper understanding of how saline lake systems respond to climate change and direct human actions.”

Moore’s partners in the research came from Utah State University, the Utah Division of Water Resources, the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Ogden and Salt Lake Community College.

Contact: Johnnie Moore, emeritus professor, UM Department of Geosciences, 406-243-2341, johnnie.moore@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Many students miss the comfort food of home once they arrive at college, but first-year students in the University of Montana’s Davidson Honors College receive a remedy for that – home-cooked meals provided by the DHC dean and other supporters.
In September and October, new honors college students are invited to the homes of Brock Tessman, the DHC dean, and Lauren and Tim Descamps, longtime supporters of the college.

“These are some of our favorite evenings of the year,” Tessman said. “The DHC will always have our academic mission as our core, but the First-Year Dinners always remind me that one of our most important functions is to connect fantastic students with one another, and to serve them as a home away from home.”

During each dinner, 20 to 30 students meet outside the honors college before being whisked away to an off-campus home for the two-hour meals. All dinners are cooked by Tessman’s wife, Kristen, or Lauren Descamps. The menu usually consists of something like spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and Dilly Bars.

“Our goal is to get our students some warm comfort food that they can enjoy while making connections with other DHC students and our local supporters,” Tessman said. “Sometimes they also get to interact with my daughters, Frankie and Leona, so that’s an added bonus.”

DHC offers the intensive learning environment of a small liberal arts and science college within a larger research university. The college is open to students of any major and provides special opportunities for students to enhance their learning and leadership skills within and outside the classroom. For more information visit http://www.dhc.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Brock Tessman, UM Davidson Honors College dean, 406-243-2541, brock.tessman@umontana.edu.
UM Davidson Honors College Provides Home Dinners for New Students - UM News - University Of Montana
Tickets to Go on Sale for Live Show of Best-Selling Toy Brand ‘Shopkins’

October 26, 2017

MISSOULA – The first-ever live theatrical show based on the No. 1 children’s toy brand “Shopkins” will visit Missoula on Friday, Feb. 10, 2018. Tickets go on sale Saturday, Oct. 28.

Tickets cost between $29.50 and $100 plus applicable fees. They are available at http://www.griztix.com, by calling 406-243-4051 or visiting any of the GrizTix outlets, including the Adams Center Box Office, Worden’s Market, Southgate Mall and MSO Hub.

Based on YouTube sensation and international toy phenomenon created in Australia by Moose Toys, “Shopkins Live! Shop It Up!” immerses audiences in the world of Shopville through custom-designed theatrical costumes, creative onstage characters and state-of-the-art video and set design. Original music, song, dance and interactive sing-a-longs are a huge part of the live show, with performances from Shoppies Jessicake, Bubbleisha, Peppa-Mint, Rainbow Kate, Cocolette, Polli Polish and more.

“We’re so thrilled to see all the besties in attendance with ear-to-ear smiles,” said Gilles Paquin, the president and CEO of Koba Entertainment and executive producer of the show. “They get so enthralled by the vibrant, colorful set
and costumes, and soon enough the catchy songs will have BFFs singing along and dancing in their seats."

Since its launch in 2014, the Shopkins brand continues to be a hot-ticket item for children worldwide, created by the family-run business Moose Toys. The pint-sized Shoppies dolls consistently rank as the No. 1 kids toy in the U.S. The first-ever Shopkins movie, “Shopkins Chef Club,” was released last year by Universal Pictures Home Entertainment, and numerous dedicated apps continue to expand the brand’s ever-growing world.

“Shopkins Live! Shop It Up!” runs for approximately 90 minutes, with one 15-minute intermission. The show will tour more than 115 North American cities through April 2018. For more information on pre-sale offers, on-sale dates and North American tour dates, visit http://www.shopkinslive.com.

A prominent producer of original family musicals, Koba Entertainment has captivated audiences around the world with celebrated characters from literature, television and pop culture since 2004. Koba Entertainment productions have enchanted people of all ages in more than 165 North American cities, 12 countries and four continents. Production credits for young audiences include: “Bubble Guppies Live!” “Ready to Rock,” “Dora the Explorer Live!” “Search for the City of Lost Toys,” “Toopy and Binoo: Fun and Games,” “The Backyardigans: Sea Deep in Adventure” and “Max & Ruby in the Nutcracker Suite.”

Contact: Will Johnson, marketing coordinator, UM Productions, 541-633-0720, marketing@umproductions.org; John Tellem, Tellem Grody PR, 310-210-8779, john@tellemgrodypr.com.
Tickets to Go on Sale for Live Show of Best-Selling Toy Brand ‘Shopkins’ - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – A Complete College Montana Summit will be held Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the University of Montana. Hosted by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and Complete College America, the event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom.

This summit will include stakeholders from across the Montana University System, as well as public school and Montana tribal colleges representatives, with the goal of implementing game-changing student success strategies designed to increase college retention and graduation.

The event represents early efforts of the newly formed Complete College Montana Team, a group of higher education leaders who have been selected to guide college completion efforts throughout the Treasure State. In addition to leading state efforts, the team will participate in CCA meetings and summits, sharing insights with a national network of states, systems, regions and institutions and collaborating with college completion experts to accelerate their work.

Summit presenters will include Clayton Christian, Montana commissioner of higher education; Tom Sugar, president...
of Complete College America; Bruce Vandal, senior vice president of Complete College America; Dhanfu Elston, vice president of Complete College America; Jim Dragna, executive director of university initiatives and student success, California State University, Sacramento; James McCoy, assistant vice president of academic affairs, College of Southern Nevada; Brian French, executive director of UM’s Office for Student Success; John Cech, MUS deputy commissioner for academic, research and student affairs; and Erik Rose, MUS director of workforce initiatives and information.

About 150 attendees are expected, including faculty, staff and administrators from every public postsecondary institution in Montana, as well as six tribal college presidents, high school counselors and administrators, state government officials and content experts from across the country.

Since 2013, Montana has committed to working with Complete College America to increase the percentage of Montanans with a postsecondary credential. Montana has successfully executed several key components of this initiative such as creating performance based funding, expanding dual enrollment opportunities for high school students, redesigning developmental education to better serve students who enter college academically underprepared and aligning degree requirements with relevant math coursework.

The next strategies Montana will design and implement include emphasizing students accumulating 15 credits per semester for on-time graduation, simplifying the maze of academic courses and student requirements by creating easy-to-follow academic maps, designing support services that increase success for adult learners, and creating structured schedules that allow students to balance work, life and academics.

“At the heart of this work is the goal to ensure that the time and money students invest in education will result in completion of a degree that prepares them to live and work in Montana,” Cech said.

The Complete College Montana Team members include Cech as the team lead, as well as:

- Dave Gerchick, dean, Highlands College, implementation lead, two-year sector.
- Bob Mokwa, provost, Montana State University, implementation lead, four-year sector.
- Erik Rose, program manager, Montana University System, metrics and evidence lead.
- Bob Hoar, provost, MSU-Billings, policy and legislation lead.
- Siri Smillie, education policy adviser, Montana governor’s representative.
- Paula Short, UM President’s Office director of communications, communications lead.

Established in 2009, Complete College America is a national nonprofit focused on significantly increasing the number of Americans with quality career certificates or college degrees and closing attainment gaps for traditionally underrepresented populations. For more information, visit [http://completecollege.org/](http://completecollege.org/).

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**Contact:** John Cech, deputy commissioner, Montana University System, 406-444-0316 or 406-670-0848, jcech@montana.edu.
MUS Summit Aims to Increase College Retention, Graduation - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – The votes are tallied and the winners selected in the University of Montana’s annual Pinecone Awards contest, which invites web users to select the University’s best websites.

UM’s Information Technology started the competition in 2014 to recognize the best uses of the Cascade Management System and the Ponderosa Template, which are used by most departments and offices on campus.

This year, the Best Homepage award went to the College of Humanities and Sciences website: http://hs.umt.edu/hs/.

“The newly redesigned College of Humanities and Sciences homepage features bold visuals, a cohesive design...
and branding, and a navigation structure that makes it the perfect gateway to the rest of the site," the Pinecone Award committee said.

Career Services took home the Best in Show award for its website (http://www.umt.edu/career/) and that department's website manager, Rachel Dierken, won Best Web Content Manager for the second year in a row.

"[Rachel] rebuilt the entire Career Services site, and the finished product is visually stimulating, provides a smooth user experience and has consistent branding throughout," her award reads. "She is always a joy to work with and has helped immensely with other sites."

Other 2017 winners are:

- The Pulaski: John Venters, University Center, http://www.umt.edu/uc/.
- Best Study Page: School of Theatre & Dance, https://www.umt.edu/study/theatre.

For a complete list of awards and winners, visit http://www.umt.edu/web/pinecone-awards/2017/default.php.

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Pinecone_awards: Winners of the 2017 Pinecone Awards at UM.

This release is online at:

JS
Local
101717pine
UM Websites, Web Managers Earn Pinecone Awards - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Nick Shontz, manager, UM Web Team, 406-243-6378, nick.shontz@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana will celebrate its credentials as a “DiverseU” on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 1-2, during the 12th annual DiverseU event.

DiverseU is a campuswide series of events focused on topics in diversity. DiverseU provides a forum for honest dialogue and the opportunity to explore the complexities of human experience, promote understanding and create community through the practice of civil discourse.

All DiverseU sessions and events are free and open to the public. Educational sessions will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday on the third floor of the University Center. UM students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members will discuss, present, perform and exhibit art.

DiverseU and Emmaus will host SALAM (Standing Alongside America’s Muslims) for an evening of food, community, dialogue and learning at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1. Speaker Ann Holmes Redding will discuss the issues and misinformation around the Islam religion and Muslims in America. The event includes a dinner and banquet in the University Center North Ballroom. Please RSVP online at http://bit.ly/2h1C12Q.
Standing Rock leader LaDonna Brave Bull Allard will close out the symposium with her keynote speech “Healing the Next Generation” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, in the University Center South Ballroom.

Allard is a Lakota historian and activist. In April 2016, she founded the first resistance camp of the Dakota Access Pipeline protest, Sacred Stones, aimed at halting the Dakota Access Pipeline near Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota.

For more information and a complete schedule, visit the DiverseU website at http://www.umt.edu/diverseu or follow the event on Facebook by visiting https://www.facebook.com/events/502540023443031.

Contact: Cal Reynolds, student director, DiverseU, 406-243-5622, cal.reynolds@mso.umt.edu.
Renowned Researcher to Speak in Missoula to Commemorate Anniversary of King Tut’s Tomb Discovery

October 23, 2017

MISSOULA – Ninety-five years after the 1922 discovery in the Valley of the Kings, Egypt's ancient royal cemetery, the tomb of the young pharaoh, Tutankhamun, is still considered by many to be the greatest archaeological discovery of all time. Despite its fame, many intriguing questions remain about the tomb and its occupant.

Donald Ryan, an archaeologist and faculty Fellow in the Division of Humanities at Pacific Lutheran University, will present the lecture “King Tut and His Fabulous Tomb: History, Mystery and Controversy” at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at the Roxy Theater, located at 718 S. Higgins Ave.

Under Ryan’s guidance, the PLU Valley of the Kings Project has examined and documented several smaller, “lost” tombs and controversial mummies found in the Valley of the Kings, not far from Tut’s tomb. Recently, the PLU project focused on three curious tombs which when first encountered in 1906 were found to contain the mummies...
of animals, including monkeys and a dog. The exact locations of these tombs were subsequently lost.

Ryan will give a second lecture while in Missoula titled “Monkeys in the Valley of the Kings: The Search for Three Unusual Tombs in Egypt's Ancient Royal Cemetery,” at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26, in Don Anderson Hall at the University of Montana. He will discuss what his recent research has revealed about these enigmatic burials.

Both events are free and open to the public. UM’s Department of Anthropology and the Montana Museum of Art & Culture are co-hosting Ryan’s visit.

Ryan has led many expeditions and is the author of several books and numerous scientific and popular articles on archaeological subjects. His work and expertise have been featured in several television documentaries.

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

Contact: Kelly Dixon, UM anthropology professor, 612-247-6414 (cell), kelly.dixon@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance will present the innovative and immersive dance concert “Dance Up Close” to audiences in November.

“Dance Up Close,” produced by UM dance Professor Michele Antonioli, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10-11, as well as 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, in the Masquer Theatre in UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center.

General admission tickets cost $16, while senior and student tickets cost $14. Admission for children 12 and under is $10. Tickets are available by calling the UMArts Box Office at 406-243-4581 from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, or ordering online at http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/. The box office also will be open one hour before
Each performance.

A highlight of the dance program’s season, this annual black-box showcase provides audiences with a chance to see new, original work of emerging and established dance artists in an intimate setting. It also gives developing designers the opportunity to collaborate with those dancers. This year’s “Dance Up Close” will feature 10 new works by faculty and students, including two junior projects – a requirement of the undergraduate dance curriculum.

Junior BFA dance major Logan Prichard will debut a new work titled “The Orchard.” With compelling visuals, the piece explores beauty through organizing and aestheticizing the movements and postures of the human form as it experiences torment and distress. In collaboration with UM Scene Shop manager Brian Gregoire, “The Orchard” blurs the line between body and design. Prichard also has collaborated with local musician Charlie Apple to create an original sounds score for the work.

“Two Degrees Celsius,” choreographed by junior BFA dance major Katie Conrad, explores the devastating effects of ocean warming on coral. An increase in ocean temperatures of only 2 degrees Celsius results in coral bleaching and the subsequent destruction of coral colonies. Seven dancers explore the movement inherent in these colonies and the marine life they support. Conrad seeks to bring awareness to the importance of these incredibly diverse ecosystems and the havoc that would result for all marine life should they disappear.

For more information, call Antonioli at 406-214-9766 or email michele.antonioli@umontana.edu. A complete schedule of UM School of Theatre & Dance productions for the 2017-18 academic year is online at http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/Season/17-18-season.php.

Contact: Michele Antonioli, UM professor of dance, 406-214-9766, michele.antonioli@umontana.edu.

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UM School of Theatre & Dance to Present ‘Dance Up Close’ - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Climbers, adventurers and fans of the outdoors are invited to a night of film at the University of Montana guaranteed to rock.

The 12th Annual Reel Rock Film Tour is a global production of the best climbing and adventure films of the year. The event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the University Center Theater.

Reel Rock shows are high energy, community events that go beyond mere film screenings to include nonprofit fundraising and a party atmosphere.

Founded in 2006 by filmmakers Josh Lowell of Big UP Productions and Peter Mortimer of Sender Films, the Reel Rock Film Tour aims to be the definitive annual event for climbing communities around the globe.

Advance tickets are available for $15 and can be purchased at the UM Outdoor Program, located on the east side of the Fitness and Recreation Center at UM. Tickets also will be available at the door for $18.
Proceeds from this event benefit the Outdoor Program and are used to maintain UM’s climbing wall, offer new programs and purchase equipment.

For more information on the event or to view a trailer, visit http://www.umt.edu/crec/Outdoor/special-programs.php.

Contact: Andi Armstrong, assistant director of operations and marketing, UM Campus Recreation, 406-243-2806, andrea.armstrong@umontana.edu.

###
Missoula College to Host Cybersecurity Awareness Week

October 19, 2017

MISSOULA – The Missoula College Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense, in conjunction with Alter Enterprise LLC and LMG Security, will host Cybersecurity Awareness Week this Monday through Friday, Oct. 23-27, at the Missoula College river campus.

“An awareness of cyber threats is crucial to understanding how to protect yourself from cyber-attacks, and in today’s digital world, cybersecurity is a critical skill for everyone to have,” said Tom Gallagher, MC information technology professor. “Cybersecurity Week activities at Missoula College coincide with National Cybersecurity Month and have been created to draw attention to the need for all individuals to protect themselves from cybercrimes.”

Information technology students will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Oct. 23-26, in the river campus foyer to perform free cybersecurity diagnostic checks on notebook computers, tablets and smart phones for students, faculty, staff and the public. The event is sponsored by LMG Security.

Additionally, students and faculty are invited to attend a presentation by blockchain specialist Lou Person at 3 p.m. Friday, Oct., 27, in MC Room 332. The presentation will focus on the growing significance of blockchain, a
disruptive technology of decentralized networks used to exchange assets and conduct trusted transactions.

Events will wrap up with a public Cybersecurity Awareness Week reception, sponsored by Alter Enterprise LLC, at 4 p.m. in Missoula College's Blackfoot Cafe. Food and beverages will be provided.

For more information, call Gallagher at 406-243-7814 or email tom.gallagher@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Thomas Gallagher, Missoula College information technology professor, 406-243-7814, tom.gallagher@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Pioneering composer, singer, director/choreographer and creator of new opera, music theater works, films and installations Meredith Monk will celebrate the universal quest for spirituality in the luminous “Meredith Monk – A Celebration Service” production, created in 1999 to commemorate the new millennium.

The event will be choreographed and directed by
two longtime members of Meredith Monk and Vocal Ensemble, Allison Easter and Tom Bogdan. Performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4, at University Congregational Church, located at 405 University Ave.

Tickets cost $15 for general admission and $12 for students and seniors and are available at the UMArts Box Office or online at

http://www.umt.edu/umarts/boxoffice or through GrizTix at http://www.umt.edu/griztix.

Easter and Bodgan also will give master classes for UM students.

Drawing from 30 years of her musical compositions, including excerpts from “ATLAS,” “Volcano Songs,” “The Politics of Quiet” and “American Archeology,” as well as from spiritual traditions spanning centuries and cultures, Monk interweaves chants and songs, dance and readings drawn from Buddhist texts, Hasidic sayings, zen poetry and Christian prayer in this celebration of community and the search for meaning and connection through ritual.

The cast includes the University of Montana Chamber Chorale, UM Dance students and actors from the UM School of Theatre & Dance.

Monk is recognized as one of the most unique and influential artists of our time. She is a pioneer in what is now called “extended vocal technique” and “interdisciplinary performance.” She creates works at the intersection of music and movement, image and object, and light and sound – discovering and weaving together new modes of
perception.

Her groundbreaking exploration of the voice as an instrument, as an eloquent language in and of itself, expands the boundaries of musical composition, creating landscapes of sound that unearth feelings, energies and memories for which there are no words. Over the past 50 years, she has been hailed as “a magician of the voice” and “one of America’s coolest composers.”

Among many highlights of Monk’s performances from the past 20 years is her vocal offering made in October 1999 for the Dalai Lama as part of the World Festival of Sacred Music in Los Angeles. Monk’s newest music-theater piece, “On Behalf of Nature,” premiered in January 2013 at UCLA and continues to tour internationally. A recording of the work on ECM Records was released in 2016.

In 2017, she won the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize, awarded to “a man or woman who has made an outstanding contribution to the beauty of the world and to mankind’s enjoyment and understanding of life.”

Contact: Stephen Kalm, dean, UM College of Visual and Performing Arts, 406-243-4970, stephen.kalm@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana is once again offering UM faculty members support for Asian-related research through the Yamaguchi Opportunity Fund.

Each fall and spring semester, the generous support of Akira Yamaguchi allows the University to offer between $500 and $1,000 to faculty members from all departments and schools for Asian studies research and curriculum development related to Asia.

In spring 2017, awards were given to faculty from history/political science, sociology and anthropology. Supported activities include research-related travel, scholarly publications, conference participation and essential research materials.

Preference is given to full-time, pretenure faculty members, although other faculty will be considered.

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

The application deadline is Monday, Nov. 27, and awards will be announced in early December. Applications can be submitted to Caitlin Sager, Mansfield Center program coordinator, at caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.

The Mansfield Center at UM promotes better understanding of the people and cultures of modern Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield (1903-2001) and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield.

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

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Contact: Caitlin Sager, UM Mansfield Center program coordinator, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Missoula College University of Montana students will have the opportunity to learn about post-graduation employment opportunities, as well as network with employers to address current workforce needs, at the upcoming third annual Industrial Technology Career Fair.

The fair, organized by UM’s Office of Career Services, will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Nov. 15, at Missoula College West Campus, located at 2795 37th Ave. It is free and open to all current UM students, prospective students and alumni.

Any business or organization seeking to employ students trained in the industrial technology programs of commercial driving, diesel technology, heavy equipment operation, precision machine technology, sustainable construction technology and welding are encouraged to attend.
For more information or registration details, call Mani Stubbs, UM Office of Career Services career counselor, at 406-243-6830 or email manuel.stubbs@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Mani Stubbs, career counselor, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-6830, manuel.stubbs@mso.umt.edu.
UM Earns National, Worldwide Ranking for Research Productivity, Impact, Excellence

October 18, 2017

MISSOULA – The research coming out of the University of Montana is among the top in the nation and world, according to recent rankings by the National Taiwan University.

Of the more than 4,000 research institutions worldwide, NTU ranks the top 800 universities based on their production of scientific papers and the impact of those papers.

UM is highly ranked in the field of agriculture, which includes agricultural sciences, environment/ ecology, and plant and animal science. UM also ranks highly in the subject areas of environment/ ecology, geosciences, and plant and animal science.

"The NTU ranking is another indicator of the world class faculty at the University of Montana," said Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president of research and creative scholarship. "Faculty publications, the citation of those..."
articles by other researchers and the high impact of those journals are primary indicators of quality and demonstrate that our faculty and students are conducting research on par with leading institutions around the world.”

NTU ranking is considered a reliable source for universities devoted to scientific research. It is entirely based on scientific papers, reflecting scientific performance from three perspectives: research productivity — the number of faculty publishing research in journals; research impact — the number of citations those publications receive from other researchers; and research excellence.

The 2017 NTU rankings for UM follow:

- Field of agriculture, world ranking: 123, U.S. ranking: 45
- Subject of environment/ecology, world ranking: 73, U.S. ranking: 31
- Subject of geosciences, world ranking: 161, U.S. ranking: 56
- Subject of plant and animal science, world ranking: 165, U.S. ranking: 47

UM is the highest-ranked higher education institution in the state and improved in both world and national rankings in every field and subject category compared to the 2016 NTU rankings.


Contact: Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president of research and creative scholarship, 406-243-6670, scott.whittenburg@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – A major social event and fundraiser for the Grizzly Scholarship Association, the 12th annual Montana Wine & Beer Festival, comes to the University of Montana on Friday, Nov. 3.

Co-sponsored by Summit Beverage, the event will run from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Adams Center. The festival consists of fine wine and beer tasting – along with food samples from some of Missoula’s top restaurants and caterers.

In addition, Montana artists will display and sell their work. A silent auction consisting of limited edition originals and a variety of wine and beer items, as well as Griz memorabilia, will be a part of the evening’s festivities.

All proceeds benefit the GSA and its mission to provide scholarships for student-athletes.

Tickets cost $50 per person, and attendees must be at least 21 years of age. Tickets are on sale now and available at the GSA Office in the Adams Center, online at http://www.gogriz.com/ or by calling 406-243-6481.

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**Contact:** Jared Amoss, Grizzly Scholarship Association assistant director, 406-243-5405, jared.amoss@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA — Montana Public Radio will do the listening as it asks its audience to share feedback and support the local programs and news coverage aired daily across the state.

MTPR’s eighth fall pledge drive begins at 6 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, and runs through 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22. MTPR hopes to raise $250,000 during that time.

“This is such a fun week for us,” said MTPR membership manager Anne Hosler. “We get to talk with our listeners, hear why they love public radio and raise the money to keep this important service available for all Montanans.”

Listeners can expect special music programs, including two live sessions. Pianists from the University of Montana and the community will play in MTPR’s studios between 2 and 4 p.m. on Wednesday, and the Poco Pianissimo concert will be broadcast live from UM’s Music Recital Hall at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21.

“It’s a great time to look back at how MTPR has made a difference in the lives of our listeners,” said Ray Ekness, director of the UM Broadcast Media Center and MTPR general manager. “From our news coverage of the
legislature, the special election and the unprecedented fire season to the music specials from Butte, Bigfork and Missoula, I’m proud of what our staff has accomplished this year.”

Listener contributions are vital and make up 72 percent of MTPR’s income annually.

“We know our listeners are passionate about Montana news and programs, but it takes their financial support to make those programs a reality,” Ekness said.

During the week, listeners can pledge by calling 406-243-6400, donate online at http://mtpr.org or mail in pledges to MTPR at 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, Montana, 59812. The pledge drive and MTPR are made possible by the involvement of thousands of people making their voices heard for public broadcasting in Montana.

Montana Public Radio is a service of UM. MTPR FM broadcast stations include 89.1 Missoula (KUFM), 91.5 Missoula, city (K218AI), 91.9 Hamilton (KUFN), 89.5 Polson (KPJH), 90.1 Kalispell, Whitefish, North Valley (KUKL), 90.5 Libby (KUFL), 91.7 Kalispell, city (K219BN), 101.3 Swan Lake (K267BJ), 91.3 Butte (KAPC), 91.7 Helena (KUHM), 91.7 Dillon (K219DN) and 89.9 Great Falls (KGPR).

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Contact: Linda Talbott, Broadcast Media Center associate director/MTPR development director, 406-243-4215, linda.talbott@umontana.edu; Anne Hosler, MTPR membership manager, 406-243-4214, anne.hosler@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Virginia-based country band Old Dominion will play a show at the University of Montana’s Adams Center on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 20, at all GrizTix locations and online at http://www.griztix.com. Prices range from $29.50 to $59.50, plus fees.

With hits such as “Break up with Him” and “No Such Thing as a Broken Heart,” Old Dominion’s success has led to demand for their live shows. The band has opened two stadium tours for Kenny Chesney and has been on the road with both Thomas Rhett and Miranda Lambert. The band’s debut album, “Meat and Candy,” climbed to No. 3 on Billboard’s Country Albums chart in 2015.

It was during their time touring that Old Dominion came up with ideas for their second album, “Happy Endings.”

“We love feel-good songs,” said lead singer Matthew Ramsey. “Sometimes you just want to put on something that makes you smile. It’s a big part of who we are, but we definitely wanted to show that we were capable of writing...
more than just fun, party tunes. We think we have the potential to be around for a long time. To stick around you have to have meaningful songs."

Contact: Alexis Schreder, marketing coordinator, UM Adams Center, 406-243-4233, alexis.schreder@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Eighteen University of Montana business students recently participated in a career-shaping experience during UM’s fourth annual Northwestern Mutual Sales Competition.

The competition, which challenges students to sell a product to a potential client in a role-play setting, provides
them with live coaching and interaction with sales professionals.

“Any time you can practice your interpersonal communication skills, your verbal communication skills and get live feedback from professionals, that’s an invaluable experience,” said Justin Angle, associate professor of marketing and an organizer of the event.

As each student pitched this year’s product – ADP Payroll and HR Services – 21 judges, including seasoned sales executives and recent UM School of Business Administration alumni, watched a live-video feed from another room in Gallagher Business Building. They evaluated contestants on a number of skills, from their ability to describe the product to their skill in overcoming client concerns.

The top three contestants split $4,000 in scholarships. Northwestern Mutual awarded $2,500 to senior Andrea Bowman from Bonney Lake, Washington, $1,000 to senior Skyler Anderson from Fairfield and $500 to senior Cree Lehrman from Hamilton.

Bowman and Anderson will represent UM in the National Collegiate Sales Competition this spring at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. With students from more than 70 universities competing, it is the world’s largest and oldest sales role-play competition.

Northwestern Mutual initiated the contest at UM in 2014 to make a deeper connection with students while visiting the business school to recruit for interns and long-term employees. Michael Butler, the Northwestern Mutual development officer responsible for implementing the contest at UM, said gaining sales skills is valuable no matter a student’s intended career path.

“Sales also isn’t always about a tangible product, as many people may think, it’s about selling yourself,” Butler said. “If you’re an accountant, or in marketing, or an attorney or a nurse or an engineer, you’ve got to be able to sell. And by selling, that means I need to persuade somebody to understand my way of thinking, my idea, my belief, my recommendation.”

Sales skills have benefitted Aerionna Hardesty, who won the competition before graduating with her business degree from UM in 2016. Hardesty said she never thought she’d go into sales before entering the competition. Now, she’s an associate sales manager at Missoula-based compression legwear company VIM & VIGR. Hardesty and last year’s second-place winner, Tatum Hoehn, returned to help judge this year’s competition.

“Winning the sales competition opened up a plethora of jobs for me,” Hardesty said. “Even having a tiny bit of sales experience is better than none to potential employers. I currently work in sales and love it.”

For more information on the competition, visit https://www.business.umt.edu/competitions/northwestern-mutual/default.php.

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Contact: Elizabeth Willy, director of marketing and communications, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-4436, elizabeth.willy@umontana.edu.
Report: 12 Million Nonresident Travelers Spent $3.04 Billion in Montana Last Year

October 17, 2017

MISSOULA –
The 2016 economic contribution of nonresident travelers to Montana was $3.04 billion spent by 12.4 million visitors, according to new figures released by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation.
Visitor spending directly supported nearly $2.5 billion in economic activity for Montana’s economy and nearly 34,700 statewide jobs. Nonresident travelers also indirectly supported an additional $1.7 billion of economic activity and almost 13,000 more jobs.

Visitation to Montana was up 5 percent in 2016, with 12.4 million travelers visiting the state during the year, said Kara Grau, ITRR assistant director of economic analysis.

The majority of those visitors – 46 percent or 5.7 million travelers – and the majority of money spent by them, came to the state during third quarter, July through September 2016. Spending in the third quarter totaled close to $1.4 billion, with travel groups spending an average of $131.11 per day during those
ITRR also recently completed an analysis highlighting the economic contribution of nonresident travel spending in each of Montana’s six travel regions. The analysis looked at the average spending data from 2015 and 2016 collected by the institute and how that travel-related spending was distributed around the state.

Glacier Country in northwest Montana received over $1 billion in spending by nonresident travelers, which was 32 percent of all spending in the state. This spending supported a total of $1.19 billion of economic activity and over 16,000 jobs, along with almost $420 million in associated labor income.

In Yellowstone Country of south-central Montana, travel spending by nonresidents totaled over $930 million, or 29 percent of the state total. More than $1.16 billion of economic activity is supported by this spending. Likewise, nearly 15,700 jobs and $417 million in labor income can be attributed to this spending.

The remaining 39 percent of travel spending occurred throughout the state, contributing to jobs, income and economic activity in each region of the state.

ITRR Director Norma Nickerson said, “Visitation in 2017 appears to be on the upswing as July in Glacier produced the highest visitation for any month on record, and Yellowstone, while slightly lower than last year, was still experiencing near-record visitation. Montana’s two national parks continue to be a draw for out-of-state visitors.”
The full report, including estimates of the economic contribution of nonresident travelers in the other four Montana travel regions, along with county-level estimates, is available on the ITRR website at http://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs/360/.

For more information about the 2016 statewide nonresident visitation and spending estimates, visit http://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs/358/. All information and reports published by ITRR are available online at http://www.itrr.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Jeremy Sage, economist and associate director, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, 406-243-5552, jeremy.sage@umontana.edu; Kara Grau, assistant director of economic analysis, ITRR, 406-243-5107, kara.grau@umontana.edu.
Irish Heroine’s Granddaughter to Speak in Missoula, Butte

October 17, 2017

MISSOULA – Micheline Sheehy Skeffington – the granddaughter of prominent Irish nationalist, feminist and suffragist Hanna Sheehy Skeffington – will deliver a lecture at the University of Montana this month celebrating the 100th anniversary of her grandmother’s tour of America in 1917.

Micheline Skeffington, a plant ecologist at the National University of Ireland, Galway, will talk about her grandmother’s fight for justice for both her husband and Ireland.

The lecture is at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30, in Turner Hall’s Dell Brown Room on the UM campus. She also will deliver a speech in Butte at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, at the Butte-Silver Bow Archives, located at 17 W. Quartz St. Both lectures are free and open to the public.

Although not involved in Ireland’s Easter Rising, Hanna’s husband, Francis, a committed pacifist, was murdered by a British firing squad. After being denied justice by the British government and refusing a sizeable payment for her silence, she brought her case against English rule in Ireland to America’s court of public opinion.
She toured from coast to coast for 18 months, gave 250 speeches, received a rousing reception in Montana and met President Woodrow Wilson – the only Irish rebel to do so.

John Devoy, leader of Clan na Gael, the largest Irish American nationalist organization of the time, claimed Skeffington’s tour of America did “more real good for the cause of Ireland than all the Irish orators and writers over the past 25 years.”

On the 100th anniversary of that tour, Micheline’s talks serve as timely reminders of the critical role the Irish of America played in winning independence for Ireland.

The lectures are sponsored by UM’s Irish Studies program, the Butte-Silver Bow Archives, the Friends of Irish Studies, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the generosity of Sam and Julie Baldrige.

For more information, call Traolach Ó Riordáin, UM Irish Studies program director, at 406-243-6359, or email traolach.oriodain@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Traolach Ó Riordáin, UM Irish Studies program director, 406-243-6359, traolach.oriodain@mso.umt.edu.
Irish Heroine’s Granddaughter to Speak in Missoula, Butte - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Announces 2017 Homecoming Parade Winners

October 16, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Alumni Association has announced the winners of the 2017 Homecoming parade. More than 110 organizations participated in the parade this year, and thousands of spectators lined the sidewalks of Higgins and University avenues for the Saturday morning Homecoming tradition.

Parade judges used a 10-point scale while considering entries’ overall appearance and impression, originality and expression of this year’s parade theme, “Reflections: Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future.” This year’s winners are:

**Grand Sweepstakes Award:** Missoula Urban Indian Health Center

**Mayor’s Award:** Leashes of Valor

**Governor’s Award:** UM School of Theatre & Dance

**Alumni Award:** UM Residence Life Office
Best Theme: KPAX

Children's Organizations:

1st – Summit Cheering Athletics
2nd – Galaxy Elite Athletics
3rd – Missoula Taekwondo Center

K-12 School Groups:

1st – Sentinel High School
2nd – Hellgate High School
3rd – Big Sky High School

Bands:

1st – MCPS Red Wave
2nd – UM Alumni Band
3rd – Glacier High School

UM Student Organizations:

1st – UM Advocates
2nd - UM Forestry Club
3rd – Alpha Phi, Sigma Chi, Alpha Sigma Phi

Nonprofits:
1st – Ironworkers Local 14

2nd – Missoula Horse Council

3rd – Mountain Line

Local Businesses:

1st – Burton’s Classic Hair and RE/MAX All Stars

2nd – AT&T

3rd – The Springs

Since it is an election year, no entries in the political category received an award.

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Contact: UM Office of Alumni Relations, 406-243-5211, .
UM’s Gilkey Lecture to Feature Entrepreneur Bill VanSickle

October 16, 2017

MISSOULA – As part of its Gilkey Executive Lecture Series, the University of Montana School of Business Administration will host a discussion with entrepreneur Bill VanSickle at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26, in Gallagher Business Building Room 106.

VanSickle will engage in an on-stage conversation about his experiences as an entrepreneur, including his process for building a positive company culture. The event is free and open to the public.

VanSickle is chair of AIM Consulting Group, a Seattle-based technology solutions and
services consulting firm he founded in 2006. The company was generating $100 million in annual revenue with 600 employees in six states before VanSickle and his partners sold it in 2016.

A 1985 graduate of the UM business school, VanSickle has successfully founded and invested in more than 70 companies in industries such as telecommunications, extreme sports, real estate, health care, gaming and technology. In the mid-90s, he created US2 Sports Group, one of the first wakeboard companies in the world. Before selling the company, he grew to include distribution channels in 26 countries. In 1998, VanSickle co-created IT consulting firm ConsultNet, which was producing more than $60 million in annual revenue before it sold in 2004. VanSickle began his career as an accountant at Boeing.

University of Montana alumni Harold and Priscilla Gilkey established the Gilkey Executive Lecture Series to enrich business education at UM. Since its founding in 2004, the series has drawn speakers such as BlogHer co-founder Lisa Stone and Potlatch Corporation CEO Michael Covey to address issues across marketing, management, finance, ethics and leadership. In addition to the public lecture, each visiting speaker leads classroom discussions with students and interacts with faculty, staff and leaders both on campus and in the community. For more information about the series and to see a complete list of past speakers, visit www.business.umt.edu/news-and-events/gilkey.php.

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**Contact:** Elizabeth Willy, director of marketing communications, UM School of Business, 406-243-4436, elizabeth.willy@umontana.edu.
UM’s Gilkey Lecture to Feature Entrepreneur Bill VanSickle - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Building a better education for Montana: That's one of the primary goals of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.

Since 1985, the foundation has invested in scholarships, expanding support to include cutting-edge programs and facilities for teaching and learning at the
University of Montana. Now, it has made another transformative gift to propel high-quality educational preparation for the next generation of Montanans.

With the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation’s generous $10 million gift, the University will construct an addition to the Phyllis J. Washington Education Center – the epicenter of UM’s education and human sciences programs.

Three stories tall, the addition will connect to the west end of the building and provide 35,000 square feet of instructional and collaborative space. Included in the new wing are a 500-seat auditorium, the largest on campus; clinical labs for the counselor education program; new spaces for the Montana Digital Academy; and two additional Learning and Belonging Preschool classrooms with observation rooms, seminar spaces, an outdoor play yard and a unique inspiration lab.

“We could not be more proud to have Dennis and Phyllis Washington as our allies in building an exceptional college for education and human sciences,” said UM President Sheila Stearns. “They epitomize the Montana ethic of working hard, earning success and giving back to build a stronger Montana.”

Preliminary preparations for construction began in late August. The project is expected to be completed by Dec. 31, 2018.

The addition is solely funded through philanthropic giving, and several generous donors have joined the Washington Foundation to support the project. Last year, the Alice Lee Lund Charitable Trust made a $5 million gift toward the auditorium, and significant contributions also have come from Montanans Betsy and Warren Wilcox and Maureen...
and Dan Rovig. (Betsy and Maureen are both graduates of UM’s education program.)

“Since the beginning of our foundation, both Dennis and I have been committed to helping youth realize their dream of accessing high quality education through scholarships,” said Phyllis Washington, chairperson of the Washington Foundation. “As a former elementary education teacher myself, I realize that investing in 21st-century technology and facilities and in transformative teacher development programs will impact students for generations to come.

“Dennis and I are honored to play a key role in supporting education programs, from early childhood to creating this new, state-of-the-art teaching and learning environment right here in our hometown of Missoula.”

The Washington Foundation helped fund the first addition to the education center, which was completed in 2009 and named in honor of Phyllis Washington. Since then, the college has only grown – both in number of students and in academic excellence.

The college demonstrated across-the-board enrollment growth from academic year 2015 to 2016, and the college is on track to continue that upward trend. The growth demonstrates that the college is meeting demand for qualified teachers, distance-learning options and mental health professionals across Montana. Donor investment in the college’s new facility will help propel these already successful programs.

In particular, UM has paved the way in early childhood education, boasting the state’s most comprehensive program. The Learning and Belonging Preschool is a key part of that, providing a structured opportunity for hands-on learning as students apply theories they learn in their UM classes. With two new preschools, the college will enhance opportunities for UM education students to interact with and learn from young children.

“Building on the three-pronged mission of the preschool, the expansion provides pioneering opportunities for interdisciplinary research on effective interventions,” said Susan Harper-Whalen, associate dean of the college. “It also will support intense clinical preparation for students enrolled in UM’s new early childhood education degrees and other human service programs and expand high quality preschool options for young children and their families in the greater Missoula area.”

The new facility also includes custom-designed spaces to support the mission of the Montana Digital Academy. The academy’s growth has been fueled by philanthropy, including nearly $6 million from the Washington Foundation for EdReady, an innovative online instructional program that has become a model for other states to follow. With the Washingtons’ support, this program has been implemented in nearly every school district in Montana.

“We are poised to become a national leader in education, human sciences and other helping professions,” said Roberta Evans, dean of the college. “With the support and guidance of these generous and passionate friends of our college, our programs will continue to grow and support high-needs fields through the development of qualified professionals who will create a lasting, positive impact on our local community, the state of Montana and our nation.”

The Alice Lund Instructional Auditorium (ALI), named in honor of the woman who earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education at UM before launching her career as a teacher, will be the largest lecture hall and event space on campus when complete. The space will allow the University to host large-scale education conferences and meetings, such as the state teachers’ union annual meeting, which adds to UM’s prestige and supports economic development in the community.
The hall also will hold large course lectures for departments across campus. The ALI Auditorium also can be broken into smaller work areas, allowing for maximum flexibility in teaching and learning.

“Montana is grateful for the support of Dennis and Phyllis Washington,” said Gov. Steve Bullock. “We know that quality early-childhood education in particular leads to positive outcomes for our children and our economy for years. The Washington Foundation is helping to lead the way in providing Montana’s children the best possible start.”

More information about the programs enhanced by the new addition is online at http://bit.ly/2yg2DEF.

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Contact: Peter Knox, communications and outreach manager, UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, 406-243-4911, peter.knox@mso.umt.edu; Kate Stober, UM Foundation, 406-243-2627, kate.stober@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Twenty-five Lake County high school students will attend western Montana’s first Heads Up Camp on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 19-20, at St. Luke Community Healthcare in Ronan.

Heads Up Camp, coordinated by the Western Montana Area Health Education Center at the University of Montana, is designed for students interested in careers in behavioral health. Students will explore a variety of career paths, including social work, counseling, psychology, psychiatry, behavioral health aides and other positions in the field. Students will learn about key topics in behavioral health, including stress, abuse, addiction, bullying, suicide and mental health.

In addition to career exploration, students will have the opportunity to earn a Youth Mental Health First Aid certificate, which requires completion of an 8-hour training course offered by the Montana Office of Public Instruction.
Western Montana Area Health Education Center at UM to Host Heads Up Camp in Ronan - UM News - University Of Montana

through collaboration with Youth Dynamics. Youth Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based training program that helps individuals and communities better understand mental health and respond appropriately to adolescents who may be experiencing a mental health issue.

Rural communities are in desperate need of passionate individuals willing to dedicate their lives to helping people struggling with mental health and socioeconomic difficulties. According to 2014 date compiled by the Health Resources and Service Administration, only 25.5 percent of mental health needs are being met across Montana. The state now has 79 designated Health Professional Shortage Areas in mental health, with the highest HPSA scores concentrated predominantly on reservations. Montana has been ranked in the top five for completed suicides in the past 40 years. Ninety percent of completed suicides have been linked to psychiatric disorders, including mood disorders and substance abuse disorders.

The administration and staff of St. Luke Community Healthcare are well aware of how this issue has impacted the rural communities and reservations.

“We’ve seen far too many lives taken by suicide in our community, especially recently,” said St. Luke CEO Steve Todd. “It’s a tragedy all around and particularly in our youth. Sponsoring the Heads Up camp is just one of many things we are doing as a health care provider to address the issue.

“We all have a part to play in helping suicide prevention,” he continued. “Our youth may have the best chance to intervene with their peers when someone is in crisis. If we can get our students trained in mental health first aid and get them interested in career paths to serve in behavioral health roles in the future, then we can save lives. I am pleased we have students from every school in the valley participating. If we work together we can make a positive impact.”

More information is available online at http://www.wmtahec.org/K-12/basepage1.php or by calling Martha Robertson, Western Montana AHEC program coordinator, at 406-243-4746.

Contact: Martha Robertson, program coordinator, Western Montana Area Health Education Center at UM, 406-243-4746, martha.robertson@mso.umt.edu; Amy Lewis, St. Luke Community Healthcare Emergency Department unit manager, 406-676-4441, alewiss@stlukehealthcare.org.
UM Career Fair to Bring Health Professionals to Campus

October 12, 2017

MISSOULA – University of Montana students and alumni will have the opportunity to meet with company recruiters from local, regional and national employers at the 13th annual Health Professions Career Fair on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

The Office of Career Services will host the fair from noon to 5 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. Registration is free for students and alumni.

More than 30 organizations plan to attend the fall career fair. The event focuses on offering recruiting opportunities for speech-language pathology, pharmacy, nursing, medical assisting, medical technology, respiratory care, radiological technology, surgical technology and other health-related fields for freshmen to graduate students to alumni.

Employers can register online through Handshake at https://umt.joinhandshake.com/login. Through their Handshake account, students and alumni also can sign up for on-campus interviews on Oct. 18 and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19. Call Career Services at 406-243-2239 for additional information.
For a schedule of events, list of attending companies or to be added to the mailing list, visit http://www.umt.edu/career/about/career-fairs/health-professions-career-fair/default.php.

Contact: Alexandria Harris, recruiting coordinator, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-2239, alexandria.harris@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana today announced a voluntary severance offer for eligible, non-faculty employees in its continuing effort to reduce personnel costs.

“The University of Montana must reduce the percentage of the budget spent on personnel,” said UM President Sheila Stearns. “This severance offer is another strategy aimed at that goal and may also reduce the number of involuntary reductions we’ll be forced to make to align our personnel expenses.”

The voluntary severance offer will be detailed in campus meetings at 11 a.m. and noon Wednesday, Oct. 18, in the University Center Theater. These sessions will be live-streamed on Montana Community Access Television.

Stearns aid the offer is similar to the Voluntary Employee Retirement Incentive Program offered to qualifying tenured faculty members earlier this year. In addition, UM has slowed hiring significantly, with all recruitments for positions supported by the general fund requiring presidential approval.

The University also is in the midst of a program prioritization effort that Stearns said will further inform the overhaul
of academic programming and administrative services offered at the institution.

"Ideally, we would've preferred to wait for the conclusion of our prioritization efforts to make some of these decisions," she said. "However, this offer creates choices and options for our employees. Our budget challenges – largely as the result of spending close to 90 percent on personnel – are significant, and strategies to address them cannot be deferred."

The president said there will be plenty of additional work to do once the recommendations are final in regards to prioritization.

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**Contact:** Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – A leading historian on Russian and Armenian history will discuss democracy, socialism and Joseph Stalin and his emergence as a Bolshevik revolutionary as part of the 2017-18 President’s Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

Ronald Grigor Suny will present “Lessons of October: The Fate of Democracy and Socialism in the Age of Revolution and Counter-Revolution” at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, in collaboration with the Philosophy Forum at UM.

The presentation, which is part of the Oct. 20-21 UM conference “Reflections of the
Revolution: The October Revolution and Global Order, 1917-2017” will be held in the University Center Ballroom.

Suny also will lead a seminar titled “Koba, the Young Stalin: The Making of a Revolutionary” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. the same day in Gallagher Business Building Room 123.

After receiving a doctorate in history from Columbia University in 1968, Suny taught at Oberlin College for 13 years.

In 1991, he became the first person to hold the Alex Manogian Chair in Modern Armenian History at the University of Michigan, where he founded and directed the Armenian Studies Program. He was the Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History at the University of Michigan until 2015 and also served as director of the Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies. Since 2015, he has been the William Sewell Jr. Distinguished University Professor of History at the University of Michigan.

During the past 45 years, Suny has published numerous books on Russian and Armenian history. He has been particularly interested in the non-Russian nationalities of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, particularly the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia).

He serves on many editorial boards, appears frequently as a guest on news programs, and has written for The New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, The Nation, New Left Review, Dissent and other papers and journals. He is finishing a book on the topic of the seminar.

The President's Lecture Series at UM consists of seven 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.

Historian to Discuss Stalin, Socialism in Upcoming President’s Lecture - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer,, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana students connected with the leader of one of the world’s top companies during a Q&A session with Microsoft President Brad Smith on Oct. 9. During the event, which was organized by UM’s School of Business Administration and the Alexander Blewett III School of Law, Smith covered topics ranging from intellectual property rights to free speech and cybersecurity.
When asked for ways students can make themselves competitive in a global society, Smith emphasized that jobs will require a balance of technical and liberal arts as technology advances. He advised students to take courses in computer science as well as data analytics.

“Decisions inside business are best made when they’re driven by data,” he said. “Even if you’re never going to be the one to produce the data or the analysis, when people are talking about it, you’ll be better served by taking those kinds of classes.”

Explaining that we’re all going to have to work in increasingly collaborative ways to harness technology, Smith also suggested students take courses in economics, communication, and history.

“Just getting that broader perspective that you get from history is a great help because a lot of success in life comes from being able to step back, stay calm, be creative and learn from other people who have addressed similar issues,” he said.

Visiting Missoula for the Montana High Tech Jobs Summit, Smith answered questions submitted by UM business and law students. Paul Kirgis, dean of UM’s law school, moderated the session.

Smith, who also serves as the company’s chief legal officer, was a lawyer in Washington, D.C., before joining Microsoft in 1993. He now leads a team of more than 1,300 business, legal and corporate affairs professionals working in 55 countries. In addition to his work at Microsoft, he is active in a number of civic and legal organizations and in the broader technology industry, including serving on the board of directors for Netflix.

“Exposing our students to global leaders and brilliant business minds like Brad Smith enriches what our students learn in the classroom,” said Chris Shook, dean of the School of Business Administration. “I’m thrilled and thankful that Microsoft and Brad made this happen for our students.”

Contact: Elizabeth Willy, director of marketing and communications, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-4436, elizabeth.willy@mso.umt.edu.
Business Publication Examines the American Prairie Reserve, World Economic Outlook

October 11, 2017

MISSOULA – An effort to establish a multimillion-acre prairie ecosystem reserve in northeast Montana is the topic of the cover story in the latest issue of Montana Business Quarterly, a publication of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana.

Jeremy Sage, economist and associate director at the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at UM, reports on the American Prairie Reserve.

“As Yellowstone and Glacier national parks experience continued record breaking numbers of visitors from across the country and internationally, regions like the Missouri River country are largely unknown and underexplored,” Sage writes.
According to the article, if the broader vision of the APR is realized, nonresident spending could increase 67 percent from the $113 million spent in the region in 2015.

“That could yield $56 million in additional economic output and nearly 700 additional jobs,” Sage says.

Also in the fall issue Paul Polzin, director emeritus of BBER, summarizes the national and state economic trends and examines global economic trends.

“The outlook is better than last year, but with increasing uncertainty,” he says.

The recession and rising unemployment which some predicted in the U.K. did not occur following Brexit. There may be energy troubles in the Eurozone due to unresolved issues between Russia and the Ukraine. And reliable economic data out of China remain problematic. Based upon the data, “The world outlook looks better, but we could still be wrong,” Polzin says.

An article by John Baldridge explores public opinion on seat belt regulation in Montana while BBER's Patrick Barkey and Todd Morgan delve into "Wildfire Emissions in Montana."

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 http://www.bber.umt.edu/ or call 406-243-5113. The Montana Business Quarterly is also available online at http://www.montanabusinessquarterly.com.


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**Contact:** Scott Hawk, publications director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, scott.hawk@business.umt.edu.
October 10, 2017

MISSOULA – The Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana will host a discussion with author and conservation advocate George Wuerthner at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 12, in Gallagher Business Building Room 122.

“Why Wilderness? An Evening of Wilderness Storytelling with George Wuerthner” is free and open to the public. Wuerthner will discuss the history of the Wilderness Act, threats to wilderness and wildness, and why America needs more wilderness.

Wuerthner is a photographer, ecologist and activist who has written more than 30 books on America’s wild places. He resides in Helena.

Housed within UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, the Wilderness Institute was established in 1975 to provide wilderness information, research and interdisciplinary education. Learn more at http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wi/.

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Contact: Joanna Campbell, assistant director, Wilderness Institute at UM, 406-243-5361, joanna.campbell@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Mannheim Steamroller will bring its popular “Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis” tour to the University of Montana Adams Center at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21.

Tickets for the show are on sale now at http://www.griztix.com and at all GrizTix locations. They also are available by calling 406-243-4051 or 1-888-MONTANA.

“Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis” has been a favorite holiday show for more than 30 years. Grammy Award-winner Davis created a show that features the beloved Christmas music of Mannheim Steamroller along with dazzling multimedia effects.

For more information call the Adams Center Box Office at 406-243-4051 or visit http://www.griztix.com.

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Contact: Alexis Schreder, marketing coordinator, UM Adams Center, 406-243-4233,
Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Returns to UM’s Adams Center Nov. 21 - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – New internships are available for students earning a Health Behavior Coach Certificate at the University of Montana. The certificate, launched in 2016, is the first of its kind in Montana.

The internships will be offered through a partnership between UM’s Department of Health and Human
Performance and the International Heart Institute at St. Patrick’s Hospital in Missoula.

“I’m excited to work with UM’s health coaching program because I feel health coaching has a real chance to help patients adopt lifestyle behaviors to prevent and control diseases,” said Heidi Meiebachtol, a St. Patrick’s Hospital physician assistant in cardiology.

Health and wellness coaches are one of the largest growing job trends, according to the Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends conducted by the American College of Sports Medicine. The report reveals health and wellness coaching has been a top-20 trend since 2010 and jumped to No. 13 in its most recent survey.

Meiebachtol believes health coaching is the missing link that can help patients implement recommendations they receive during a clinic visit with their provider.

“Health coaching can help individuals develop successful, long-term self-management skills focused on areas such as healthier eating habits, exercise, smoking cessation, stress reduction and medication compliance,” Meiebachtol said, “which can lead to prevention and control of chronic disease, thereby improving quality of life, limiting hospitalizations and reducing medical expenses.”

The unique, real-world experience students gain in their internships complements what they learn in class at UM and offers a unique opportunity unlike other programs. Previous participants in the Health Coaching Certificate Program at Curry Health Center have had success finding employment in the health care industry.

“After my internship with the International Heart Institute, I feel more prepared than ever to enter the professional world,” said Justine Mankowski, a senior majoring in community health.

Kayli Julius, health coach coordinator at Curry Health Center, knows these kinds of experiences will make UM’s health behavior coach graduates more prepared for life after graduation.

“Health coaching is a skill that takes time to build and understand,” Julius said. “It’s not something you can learn by only reading a textbook or taking an online course.”

Students interested in earning a Health Behavior Coach Certificate are encouraged to visit the Health Coach Certificate Program website at http://bit.ly/2fPNLEw to learn more. Students must apply by the Nov. 18 deadline to be considered for the program.

“Health coaching is a growing field,” Julius said. “We know students are concerned about where they will be working once they graduate, and I believe this field will only continue offering more and more opportunities.”

Contact: Kayli Julius, health coach coordinator, UM Curry Health Center, 406-243-6719, kayli.julius@umontana.edu.
UM, Missoula Folklore Societies to Host Town and Gown Dance

October 05, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Folklore Society will host its annual Town and Gown Dance from 8 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, in the University Center Ballroom. An optional beginners’ workshop starts at 7:30 p.m.

The event is free, but donations are accepted. The event features Irish and Appalachian fiddle music from the Idaho-based band Out of the Wood.
The Town and Gown Dance features Contra dance, which is an Americanized European country dance. Two long lines of people dance a series of simple figures and continually move along the lines until each person has danced with everyone else. Organizers said the dance figures are easy to learn and are called out during the dance. Mark Matthews will call the Town and Gown Dance.

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

To watch an example of the type of dancing featured at this event, go to https://youtu.be/qvHEnAKlaIY.

For more information call Watson at 406-243-5153, email vicki.watson@umontana.edu or visit http://missoulafolk.org.

Contact: Vicki Watson, UM Folklore Society adviser, 406-243-5153, vicki.watson@umontana.edu.
University of Montana
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812
Phone: (406) 243-2522
news@umontana.edu
UM to Hold Talk on Dementia-Friendly Communities

October 05, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host two speakers involved with creating dementia-friendly communities in their states on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Olivia Mastry and Kay Wallick will present from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room 204 of the Todd Building, located behind the University Center. The presentation, sponsored by the Missoula Coalition on Aging and Disability Education Committee with funding from UM’s Montana Geriatric Education Center, is free and open to the public.

Mastry, the executive lead for Minnesota’s volunteer-driven, award-winning Act on Alzheimer’s initiative, has worked for more than 10 years on creating dementia-friendly communities throughout the state. Wallick, director of the newly developed Dementia Friendly Wyoming, has 35 years of experience in social services administration.

Dementia currently affects more than 20,000 Montanans over the age of 65, and this number is expected to increase to 27,000 by 2025. A dementia-friendly community is informed, safe, respectful and supportive of individuals with dementia and their families. In it, people with dementia are empowered to have goals, hopes and confidence, knowing they can contribute and participate in activities that are meaningful to them and others, setting
up a win-win dynamic.

Creating a dementia-friendly community involves raising awareness, challenging stigma, increasing understanding and providing dementia education to key community sectors, including businesses, financial and legal services, faith communities, first responders, housing, transportation, the health care network and city/county agencies and officials.

For more information on the presentation, call Missoula Aging Services at 406-728-7682.

Contact: Terry Egan, associate director, UM Montana Geriatric Education Center, 406-243-2480, terry.egan@umontana.edu.
UM Paleontology Center to Celebrate National Fossil Day

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Paleontology Center invites the public to celebrate National Fossil Day on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

The Paleontology Center will mark the day with a free event from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Charles H. Clapp Building on the southeast corner of campus. Attendees are asked to enter through the building’s breezeway.

Activities include fossil identifications; tours of the displays and research collections; and a chance to hear about paleontological research going on at the center. The year’s event will highlight “Wonderful Weirdos” in the collection. Participants are invited to bring in their own fossils for identification.

“Anyone who has interest in fossils or earth history should come by and visit us for National Fossil Day,” said Kallie Moore, Paleontology Center collections manager. “The UMPC has been involved with National Fossil Day since it was established in 2010, and we love bringing the amazing field of paleontology to the community.”

The UMPC collections represent the ancient heritage of Montana and western North America. There are more than 100,000 specimens in the research collections, and the public displays feature an array of fossils and other fossiliferous rocks.
50,000 vertebrate, invertebrate and plant specimens in the research collection, which was started in 1898.

For more information call Moore at 406-243-5406, email kallie.moore@mso.umt.edu or visit http://hs.umt.edu/paleo/fossil-day.php.

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**Contact:** Kallie Moore, UM Paleontology Center collections manager, 406-243-5406, kallie.moore@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Montana High Tech Jobs Summit will bring some of the nation’s top technology and business leaders to the University of Montana on Monday, Oct. 9.

Among the keynote speakers will be Brad Smith, Microsoft president and chief legal officer; Neville Ray, chief technical officer and executive vice president of T-Mobile; Janelle Mungo, Facebook policy program manager; and Sanjay Poonen, VMware chief operating officer.

Co-sponsored by U.S. Sen. Steve Daines and the Montana Chamber Foundation, this second biennial summit brings in business leaders to meet and inspire Montanans who are part of the state’s growing technology sector. The event serves as an opportunity to discuss ways to create more good-paying Montana tech jobs.

For more information or to register, visit https://montanatechsummit.com/. The full agenda, including a reception with Daines on Sunday, Oct. 8, is online at https://montanatechsummit.com/agenda. View a livestream of the event at https://www.daines.senate.gov/.
“I’m excited to bring Montanans together for a conversation about the growth of the high tech industry in our state,” Daines said. “Montana has it all, and tech provides another avenue to live where you like to play.”

Contact: Katie Waldman, S. Sen. Steve Daines’ office, 202-224-2651, katie_waldman@daines.senate.gov.
UM Research Center Surveys Military Bases for Four Potential Federally Listed Species

October 04, 2017

MISSOULA – The Center for Integrated Research on the Environment (CIRE) at the University of Montana will survey and assess the habitat of four potentially federally listed species on the Travis and Beale Air Force bases in California.

CIRE researchers are studying the western spadefoot toad,
UM Research Center Surveys Military Bases for Four Potential Federally Listed Species - UM News - University Of Montana

foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle and tricolored blackbird on the Travis and Beale Air Forces bases. Through the project, the CIRE team will work to determine the geographic locations of the species and survey habitat characteristics to help the military better understand what’s present on its installations regarding the species and their habitats.

“The intent of this project is to survey the bases for species that are of conservation concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and to determine if there are adequate habitats at Travis Air Force Base and other Air Force installations to support these species,” said Penn Craig, a Travis AFB natural and cultural resources manager. “This information will assist the base in the management and conservation of listed threatened and endangered species.”

Travis AFB, located in Fairfield, California, halfway between Sacramento and San Francisco, is a little less than 5,200 acres, with approximately 90 acres of wetlands and more than 600 isolated vernal pools. These wetland habitats are home to several threatened and endangered wildlife species, including the California tiger salamander, vernal pool fairy shrimp and tadpole shrimp. Activated in 1943, the base is the largest employer in Solano County, with an economic impact of $1.6 billion.

Beale Air Force Base, near Marysville, California, was activated in 1948 and covers even more territory at nearly 23,000 acres, with more than 10,000 known vernal pools. Beale is home to 31 threatened and endangered wildlife species, such as the vernal pool tadpole and fairy shrimp and numerous bats, birds and snakes.

The CIRE team is conducting visual surveys for the species, installing song meters at several locations to detect toad and bird vocalizations, and collecting water samples for environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling – a tool used to monitor for the genetic presence of an aquatic species – for the spadefoot toad and western pond turtle.

Once the data is collected, the team will return to Missoula to conduct the eDNA analysis in a UM genetics lab. They also plan to pioneer the development of a DNA primer to detect spadefoot toad DNA in water samples.

“Within the last 10 years, eDNA as a tool has just skyrocketed,” said Winsor Lowe, CIRE project principal.
investigator and UM professor of aquatic ecology. “There is a lot of demand for eDNA sampling in the management agencies, and part of the reason that we are using it in this project is because of the interest and enthusiasm of our point of contacts on bases.”

Lowe said the CIRE team also will produce maps of the bases showing areas where the four species are likely to be present based on their surveys and habitat models.

“The most valuable output for the bases will be knowing the geographic distributions of these different species, which can be used for future management and decision-making,” he said.

All four of the study species could become federally listed under the Endangered Species Act. California already lists the western spadefoot toad, western pond turtle and tricolored blackbird as species of concern. The tricolored blackbird is under further review for listing as threatened or endangered at the state level, and the frog is a “candidate” species, meaning it could be added to the state’s threatened or endangered species list in the future. If the species are listed, the base will have data from the output of the CIRE project to suggest conservation and management efforts.

“Another possible outcome is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could determine there is adequate habitat or viable populations in existence for the species to survive without additional protections,” Craig said.

The Endangered Species Conservation Act was enacted in 1973. Section Seven of the ESA requires all federal agencies to ensure that “any action authorized, funded or carried out by an agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat.”

“I’ve been really impressed by how much the military wants to be proactive and think about how to best manage these species, regardless of whether they become listed,” said Alisa Wade, project manager and conservation scientist with CIRE.

The bases on which the CIRE team is working are large expanses of land set aside for the military, but not all of that land is used for military action. Wade described them as beautiful, comprised of rolling grasslands full of wildflowers.

“They are definitely refugia for some of the species that have been extirpated and refugia for habitat that has been lost,” she said.

CIRE is a center at UM specialized in investigation, research and support areas designed to address the particular needs of its clients. “My experience working with CIRE has been very positive, and I (Travis AFB) look forward to continuing a healthy working relationship,” said Craig.

“The Air Force and the Army Corps of Engineers environmental managers are advancing science through this process.” Wade said. “So, they are helping to develop the DNA marker, which will not only help the bases, but also will be accessible to others doing eDNA testing for the rare spadefoot toad. So it is a neat partnership from that perspective for sure.”

For more information call Mona Nazeri, CIRE media information specialist, at 406-243-2617 or email
Contact: Mona Nazeri, media information specialist, UM Center for Integrated Research on the Environment, 406-203-2556, mona.nazeri@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A University of Montana alumnus who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2016 will deliver a lecture when he returns to campus Homecoming Week to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award.

William Finnegan, who earned a master’s degree in creative writing from UM in 1978, will present a nonfiction craft lecture at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13, in Turner Hall’s Dell Brown Room.

The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be followed by a Q&A
Finnegan has been a staff writer for The New Yorker since 1987. He’s spent the majority of his career writing in-depth features on conflicts at home and abroad, reporting on everything from apartheid in South Africa to the politics of immigration reform in the U.S.

Fellow alumnus and friend Bryan Di Salvatore said Finnegan’s time at UM has deeply influenced his work.

“I believe that, on a molecular level, every paragraph, sentence and word that Bill Finnegan writes, is born, in part, of his time in Missoula at the MFA program, living, as students do, poor and hungry and in love with the English language and bouncing around like a BB in a boxcar with the excitement of learning his craft,” Di Salvatore said.

In 2016, Finnegan’s surfing memoir, “Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life,” won a Pulitzer Prize. The New York Times best-seller chronicles his “youthful obsession” during his formative years as he traveled the world looking for the next big wave. He has earned numerous accolades for his reporting as well, and his research and reporting have resulted in several nonfiction publications, including “Cold New World: Growing Up in a Harder Country.”

For more information on the event, call UM Creative Writing Program Coordinator Karin Schalm at 406-243-5267 or email karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu.

The public is also invited to attend a panel discussion featuring all five Distinguished Alumni Award recipients at 5:30 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. The awards ceremony will follow. For more information on the Distinguished Alumni Awards, visit https://grizalum.org/.

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Contact: Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing program coordinator, 406-243-5267, karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu.
Pulitzer-Winning Writer to Lecture at UM Upon Earning Distinguished Alumni Award - UM News - University Of Montana
UM News

UM Hires Bodnar as 18th President

October 03, 2017

MISSOULA – Montana University System leaders announced today that Seth Bodnar has accepted the offer to be the next president of the University of Montana.

Subject to Board of Regents approval in November, Bodnar will assume the UM presidency on Jan. 1.

Fran Albrecht, chair of the Montana University System Board of Regents, said board members reached consensus in confidently supporting Bodnar as the type of transformational leader UM needs now and well into the future.

She said Bodnar’s vision for UM and his proven leadership skills are the right fit for a university that has begun the process of refining its program relevancy and is repositioning for institutional growth and strength.

“Seth has a remarkable record of excellence in his academic achievements, public service and visionary leadership, and is someone who uniquely understands the critical importance of a liberal arts education across disciplines,” Albrecht said. “As the so-called ‘non-traditional’ candidate, Seth inspired and generated confidence across the community, alumni, students and the University community in his ability...
to champion and re-envision a University that addresses the challenges facing students and higher education today.”

Bodnar and Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian both indicated Bodnar’s view of education’s role in transforming individual lives and strengthening communities contributed strongly to the presidential job offer and acceptance.

“Seth is the leader who is best suited to make this great University even stronger for the long term,” Christian said. “His experience, skills and personal effectiveness are tremendous attributes to propel UM forward in its continuing tradition of excellence and advancing its historic mission.”

Bodnar said he is honored to accept the UM presidency.

“I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work with a tremendous team across campus and throughout the community who are passionately committed to the University and its success,” he said.

Bodnar, a Rhodes and Truman scholar, earned two master’s degrees at Oxford University. He graduated first in his class at West Point and later taught classes as a faculty member at the military academy.

He completed a distinguished military career, serving in the 101st Airborne Division and the U.S. Army’s First Special Forces Group. As a member of the Army’s elite Green Berets, he commanded a Special Forces detachment on multiple deployments around the world and later served as a special assistant to the commanding general in Iraq. He was promoted early to the rank of major.

Bodnar is a senior executive at General Electric Co., where he is responsible for long-term strategy and business transformation at GE Transportation, a global company with over 10,000 employees and approximately $5 billion in revenue. Previously, he was president of GE Transportation’s Digital Solutions business and was GE Transportation’s first-ever chief digital officer.

“Seth has been a transformative leader at GE,” said Jamie Miller, the CEO of GE Transportation. “His passion for continuous learning and the development of people, his distinguished record of service and his ability to foster a collaborative and innovative culture are remarkable. We are excited for Seth and his family and for the University of Montana.”

He will be UM’s 18th president. Compensation terms are being finalized and will be made public when the Board of Regents takes up the hiring recommendation at the November board meeting.
The presidential recruitment began last December when the Board of Regents held listening sessions in Missoula to ask members of the public and the campus community what qualities and characteristics they would like to see in the next president.

A search advisory committee of more than 20 UM students, faculty members, staff members, community representatives and education leaders developed the presidential job advertisement based on the community feedback.

"UM is poised to identify, prioritize and sustain an excellent array of high-quality educational program offerings that are of tremendous value to the people of Montana, surrounding region, nation and world," the advertised message said to potential candidates. "The president will lead UM in vital aspects of planning, development and implementation of successful educational and outreach service to students and the people of Montana. He or she will be a principal articulator of a compelling vision of public higher education for the state of Montana."

Bodnar said he was attracted to UM by its numerous world-class programs and its excellence in research, as well as the institution's ability to provide a strong, multidisciplinary education for its students.

"As a flagship research and liberal arts institution, the University of Montana is extremely well-positioned to provide exactly the type of integrative education model that students need to be successful, educated and engaged citizens throughout their lifetimes," he said. "I am incredibly excited to work with the faculty and the entire campus community in reinvigorating and reasserting this model."

In addition to the professional challenge and opportunity, Bodnar has a personal interest in UM and the Missoula area. His love for Montana bloomed while studying at Oxford, where he met fellow Rhodes Scholar and future wife, Chelsea Elander, a fifth-generation Montanan and native of Missoula. Chelsea is a pediatrician and a graduate of Hellgate High School, Montana State University-Bozeman, Oxford and Harvard Medical School. Chelsea and Seth have three children.

The couple will visit Missoula on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 12-13, and into the Homecoming weekend. He enthusiastically looks forward to this early opportunity meet more UM community members and engage with students, faculty, staff, professionals, administrators and other stakeholders and supporters of the University.

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Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@umontana.edu.
Honor the Past, Shape the Future at UM Homecoming Oct. 8-14

October 03, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Alumni Association invites alumni and the Missoula community to celebrate Homecoming 2017, Sunday through Saturday, Oct. 8-14.

This year’s theme, “Reflections: Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future,” commemorates UM’s upcoming 125th anniversary celebration. The schedule includes a full slate of traditions new and old for the University community to participate in.

The festivities get started with the Homecoming Kickoff Celebration from 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, at the Southgate Mall Clock Court. The event will include music, dancing, prizes and appearances by UM mascot Monte, the UM Cheer Squad and Dance Team. The kickoff is sponsored by Southgate Mall, Missoula’s 102.5 Mountain FM, Liberty Mutual Insurance and the UM Office of Alumni Relations.

The celebration continues at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 9, with the painting of the Hello Walk on the sidewalk outside Turner Hall. Members of the public are invited to join students and alumni in this UM tradition.
The public also is invited to the Homecoming Buffet Dinner at the Food Zoo in the Lommasson Center at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12. The cost is $8.40 per person.

The 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients will be honored at a ceremony and reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13, in the University Center Ballroom. This year's recipients are William Finnegan, Harry Fritz, Ramakrishna Nemani, Robert "Bob" Seim and James "Scott" Wheeler.

The Yell Night Pep Rally gets underway at 8 p.m. Friday on the UM Oval, with the lighting of the “M” at dusk. Join Grizzly cheerleaders, the UM Marching Band and Monte for a bonfire, Singing on the Steps and a fireworks display.

Following the pep rally, alumni and community members are invited to the All-Alumni Social at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown. Music will be provided by the UM Alumni Band from 7 to 9 p.m. in the ballroom, with a break to see the UM Marching Band perform between 9 and 9:30 p.m. in the atrium. The Alumni Jazz Band will play from 10 p.m. to midnight at Brooks & Browns Bar and Grill, adjacent to the atrium.

The 10th annual Homecoming Hustle 5K race starts at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at the intersection of Higgins and Main downtown, just before the annual Homecoming Parade.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday and travels south on Higgins to University Avenue. This year’s honorary parade marshal is legendary Lady Griz basketball coach Robin Selvig.

Drop by the Alumni Tailgate before the football game to enjoy food and beverages from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in tailgate spot 2 in the River Bowl, on the east side of parking lot M.

The Montana Grizzlies take on the University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks at 1 p.m. Saturday in the annual Homecoming football game in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

For a complete schedule of Homecoming events, visit http://www.grizalum.com or call the UM Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association at 406-243-5211.

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**Contact:** Angela Weisenburger, events coordinator, UM Office of Alumni Relations, 406-243-5211, angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – An editor with deep experience in investigative journalism will discuss the role of confidential sources and leaks in an upcoming lecture at the University of Montana.

Cheryl Carpenter, who teaches in UM’s School of Journalism this semester as the T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professor, will present, “Confidential Sources: Can Journalism Live Without Them?” at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, in the University Center Theater. The 2017 Pollner Lecture is free and open to the public.


Carpenter has overseen many investigations, most recently examining the Panama Papers, a massive leaked database that showed...
thousands of offshore investors were engaged in fraud, tax evasion and avoidance of international sanctions.

As Pollner Professor in the School of Journalism, Carpenter teaches a course on the ethical and practical issues reporters face, particularly when dealing with leaked documents.

Carpenter holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master’s degree in organizational development from Queens University in Charlotte. She also was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 2005, studying ethics and leadership.

The School of Journalism created the Pollner professorship in 2001 in memory of T. Anthony Pollner, a UM journalism alumnus who died two years after graduating. The Pollner endowment allows the school to bring a distinguished journalist to campus for a full semester to teach a course and to mentor students at the Montana Kaimin newspaper.

For more information call School of Journalism Dean Larry Abramson at 406-243-5250 or email larry.abramson@mso.umt.edu. The School of Journalism is online at https://jour.umt.edu/.

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Contact: Larry Abramson, UM School of Journalism dean, 406-243-5250, larry.abramson@mso.umt.edu.
New UM Faculty Member Lands $1.8 Million Grant to Study Intracellular Bacteria that Infect Most Insects

October 02, 2017

MISSOULA – A new University of Montana faculty member, Brandon Cooper, recently was awarded a five-year, $1.8 million Outstanding Investigator Award from the National Institutes of Health to study how specific intracellular bacteria affect the physiology and fitness of their insect hosts.

Cooper moved into his UM office this fall – with him he brought Drosophila flies sampled from around the world. From his home base in Missoula, he and his team will focus on understanding Wolbachia bacteria spread within and between Drosophila host species.
Maternally transmitted Wolbachia bacteria infect the cells of about half of all insects on the planet, in addition to other arthropods and nematodes.

"Wolbachia are the most prevalent endosymbionts in nature, yet we know very little about how they spread within and between host species to become common," Cooper said. “Our research will fill this gap in knowledge."

Wolbachia became famous for manipulating host reproduction. More recently, it was recognized that Wolbachia can protect their hosts from viruses. When exposed to viruses, flies with Wolbachia infections are more likely to survive than those that are not infected with Wolbachia.

This observation was quickly leveraged and Wolbachia from the Drosophila fly was used as a biocontrol of vector-borne disease. With a target set on mosquitoes notorious for spreading human disease such as Zika or dengue, Wolbachia from Drosophila have been transinfected into the mosquitoes and are being released around the globe. The success of this strategy relies on efficiently spreading Wolbachia infections through host populations.

Cooper’s team will use the NIH funding to find the answers to how these bacteria affect host physiology and fitness to spread.

“I am incredibly grateful for this award, which will support my lab’s research on Wolbachia over the next five years,” Cooper said. “We are thrilled to work on these problems here at UM where we have wonderful colleagues in UM’s Cellular, Molecular and Microbial Biology program and the Division of Biological Sciences.”

Before coming to UM, Cooper completed his doctorate in evolutionary genetics at Indiana University, Bloomington. He completed his NIH-funded postdoctoral training at the University of California, Davis. He started working at UM in 2016.

When asked why he chose to research at UM, Cooper said it was because of the chance to work with “exceptional colleagues."

“In my areas of study, there are not only colleagues working in similar disciplines, but they are some of the best in
the world," Cooper said.


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**Contact:** Brandon Cooper, assistant professor, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 406-243-2174, brandon.cooper@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Acclaimed author Daniel Sharfstein will deliver a lecture titled “The Wilderness of American Power: Understanding Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War” on Thursday, Oct. 5, at the University of Montana.

Sharfstein, also a professor of history and law at Vanderbilt University, will present UM Department of History’s Ninth Annual Hampton Lecture at 7p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 106. The event is free and
Historian to Lecture on Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War - UM News - University Of Montana

Sharfstein will discuss the Nez Perce War, Chief Joseph’s relations with the United States and the legacy of Chief Joseph’s criticism of American power. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail and the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History.

Sharfstein wrote the widely acclaimed book “Thunder in the Mountains: Chief Joseph, Oliver Otis Howard and the Nez Perce War.”

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