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## UM News

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# UM Graduate Students Win Scholarships

February 27, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The Wyss Foundation recently awarded scholarships to two University of Montana graduate students. The scholarships will aid these student-conservation leaders by funding up to half of each student’s tuition and supporting a summer internship or research project.

Haley Wiggins of **Bainbridge Island, Washington**, is a student in UM’s College of Forestry and Conservation. She earned a bachelor’s degree in ecological restoration and biology at UM in 2009 and has worked as a botanist for five years. Wiggins currently works with Associate Professor Cara Nelson on a project funded through the U.S. Forest Service. The project involves the study of landscape-scale forest spatial patterns in the northern Sierra Nevada mountains and the Sierra de San Pedro Martir mountains of the Baja Peninsula in Mexico.

“I chose to come back to the University of Montana for this project because of the excellent faculty and for the joy of living in Missoula,” Wiggins said. “I am extremely honored to receive this scholarship.”

Adam Andis of **Columbus, Indiana**, is a graduate student in UM’s Environmental Studies Program in the College of Humanities and Sciences. He has worked in southeast Alaska since 2007 and most recently has held the position of communications director for the Sitka Conservation Society. In 2010, he helped found the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and currently serves on its board. He currently studies the permeability of wildlife bypass

structures on U.S. Highway 93 with respect to surrounding populations.

The Wyss Scholars Program supports graduate-level education of a new generation of leaders in western-land conservation. Wyss Scholars learn the latest in conservation science and policy and apply that knowledge to careers in land management agencies and nonprofit conservation groups. Each year the Wyss Foundation selects scholars from Northern Arizona University, University of Michigan, UM and Yale University.

###

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# East Broadway Park and Ride to Close March 2, Alternatives Offered

February 27, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Due to construction of the new Missoula College building, the Associated Students of the University of Montana’s East Broadway park and ride lot will close on Monday, March 2. Users are encouraged to take advantage of several alternatives, including a temporary park and ride at the Missoula Comfort Inn University Hotel, located at 1021 East Broadway.

UM students, faculty and staff can take advantage of the following transportation alternatives during the closure. They are:

- UDASH riders can park free of charge at the Comfort Inn, located just three blocks west of the East Broadway park and ride lot, and board the Green Line UDASH to campus.
- Upon request, frequent Green Line UDASH riders can get a free parking pass to the Park Place parking garage in downtown Missoula until the end of the semester. The pass is valued at \$190 and will be offered at no charge to students, faculty and staff. From downtown, riders can catch the Mountain Line Route 1 bus to campus, which departs every 15 minutes.

- Riders can continue to park at the Dornblaser and Lewis & Clark Park-N-Ride lots and take the UDASH buses to campus free of charge.

Personalized trip planning assistance is available by calling the ASUM Office of Transportation at 406-243-4599. Maps and schedules are available at <http://udash.org/construction>.

Arrangements are made possible by the generous support and assistance of the Comfort Inn, Riverside Healthcare, the Missoula Parking Commission, the UM Police Department and UM's Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance.

**Contact:** Jordan Hess, director, ASUM Transportation, 406-243-4599, [jordan.hess@umontana.edu](mailto:jordan.hess@umontana.edu).



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# UM to Host Shakespeare's First Folio Exhibition in 2016

February 27, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana has been selected as Montana's host site for "First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare," a national traveling exhibition of one of the world's most treasured books – the Shakespeare First Folio.

The Folger Shakespeare Library, in partnership with Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association, is touring the exhibition to all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico in 2016. Final touring dates will be announced in April.

"Each state will host a copy of the folio, and I am



proud that we get to represent Montana,” said Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library Associate Professor Julie Biando Edwards. “We have a wonderful campus and community partnerships. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Montana, and I am so pleased to be a part of it.”

The Mansfield Library and Montana Museum of Art & Culture submitted the application to bring the First Folio to campus, and will partner to make it a valuable experience for the community. While the library will lead organizing and implementing numerous programs for University students, adults, children, teachers and families, the MMAC will display the folio and other related panels in their galleries, support the environmental and security requirements and provide public access free of charge. The museum also will curate a related exhibit, extending its hours to accommodate as many visitors as possible.

“Exhibiting the Shakespeare First Folio is a high honor,” MMAC Director Barbara Koostra said. “MMAC is delighted to partner with the Mansfield Library to bring this rare object to the University of Montana campus and the region, and we hope it inspires everyone.”

Many of Shakespeare's plays, which were written to be performed, were not published during his lifetime. The First Folio is the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays. It was published in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare's death. Two of Shakespeare's fellow actors compiled 36 of his plays, hoping to preserve them for future generations. Without it, we would not have 18 of Shakespeare's plays, including “Macbeth,” “Julius Caesar,” “Twelfth Night,” “The Tempest,” “Antony and Cleopatra,” “The Comedy of Errors” and “As You Like It.”

When the First Folio arrives in Missoula, its pages will be opened to Shakespeare's most quoted line: “To be or not to be.” Those words were written in “Hamlet.” Accompanying the rare book will be a multi-panel exhibition exploring the significance of Shakespeare, then and now, with additional digital content and interactive activities.

The Folger Shakespeare Library holds 82 copies of the First Folio, by far the largest collection in the world and more than a third of the 233 known copies. It is believed that 750 copies originally were printed.

The Folger Library is a world-renowned center for scholarship, learning, culture and the arts. It is a primary repository for rare materials from the years 1500-1750. The library is an internationally recognized research library offering advanced scholarly programs in the humanities, an innovator in the preservation of rare materials, a national leader in how Shakespeare is taught in grades K-12, and an award-winning producer of cultural and arts programs – theater, music, poetry, exhibits, lectures and family programs. Learn more at <http://www.folger.edu>.

“First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare” has been made possible, in part, by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Exploring the Human Endeavor, and by the generous support of Vinton and Sigrid Cerf and Google.org. Sponsorship opportunities of this major exhibition and the Folger’s other “Wonder of Will” programs commemorating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death are available. Visit <http://www.folger.edu> for more information.

Partners in the Missoula community include Montana Public Radio, Missoula Children’s Theatre, Children’s Museum Missoula, Montana Association of Teachers of English Language Arts, Missoula Writing Collaborative and Humanities Montana.

Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal is a nationally recognized institution and national historic landmark. For more information visit <http://www.cincymuseum.org>. The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with approximately 58,000 members in academic, public, school, government and special libraries. Additional information can be found online at <http://www.ala.org/programming>. Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information is available at <http://www.neh.gov>.

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### **About Folger Shakespeare Library**

Folger Shakespeare Library is a world-renowned center for scholarship, learning, culture, and the arts. It is home to the world’s largest Shakespeare collection and a primary repository for rare materials from the early modern period (1500-1750). The Folger is an internationally recognized research library offering advanced scholarly programs in the humanities, an innovator in the preservation of rare materials, a national leader in how Shakespeare is taught in grades K–12, and an award-winning producer of cultural and arts programs – theater, music, poetry, exhibits, lectures and family programs. Learn more at <http://www.folger.edu>.

### **About Cincinnati Museum Center**

Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal is a nationally recognized institution and national historic landmark. Dedicated to sparking community dialogue, insight and inspiration, CMC was awarded the 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and received accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums in 2012. CMC is one of only 16 museums in the nation with both of these honors, making it a unique asset and a vital community resource. Union Terminal has been voted the nation’s 45th most important building by the American Institute of Architects. Organizations within CMC include the Cincinnati History Museum, Duke Energy Children’s Museum, Museum of Natural History & Science, Robert D. Lindner Family OMNIMAX Theater and Cincinnati History Library & Archives. Recognized by Forbes Traveler Magazine as the 17th

most visited museum in the country, CMC welcomes more than one million visitors annually. For more information, visit <http://www.cincymuseum.org>.

### **About the American Library Association**

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with approximately 58,000 members in academic, public, school, government and special libraries. The mission of the ALA is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

ALA's Public Programs Office provides leadership, resources, training and networking opportunities that help thousands of librarians nationwide develop and host cultural programs for adult, young adult and family audiences. The mission of the ALA Public Programs Office is to promote cultural programming as an essential part of library service in all types of libraries. Projects include book and film discussion series, literary and cultural programs featuring authors and artists, professional development opportunities and traveling exhibitions. School, public, academic and special libraries nationwide benefit from the office's programming initiatives. Additional information can be found at <http://www.ala.org/programming>.

### **About the National Endowment for the Humanities**

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at <http://www.neh.gov>.

**Contact:** Julie Biando Edwards, associate professor, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, 406-243-4505, [julie.edwards@umontana.edu](mailto:julie.edwards@umontana.edu); Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, [barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu](mailto:barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu); Brandon Reintjes, curator of art, MMAC, 406-243-2019, [brandon.reintjes@umontana.edu](mailto:brandon.reintjes@umontana.edu).



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# UM Celebrates March as International Month

February 27, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana’s Office of International Programs will celebrate internationalism during the entire month of March. Throughout the month, OIP will promote events, discussions, lectures, films and other activities that are centered on discovering UM’s global reach.

“In this century, universities must prepare students to become proactive citizens of multicultural and interconnected communities,” said Paulo Zagalo-Melo associate provost for global century education and Director of International Programs. “The idea behind International Month is to illustrate and elevate the ongoing internationalization and global activities on campus.”

Highlight events include India Week, which will take place Sunday through Saturday, March 1-7. The weeklong series will bring talks, performances, exhibits and events to campus to engage students, faculty, staff and members of the community in the diverse Indian culture. More detailed information on the series can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1BVVHe6>.

The other cornerstone event is the 2015 International Culture and Food Festival, which is slated for noon to 5 p.m.



Sunday, March 22, in the University Center. The theme of this year's festival is "Big Sky, Rising Sun." It is Missoula's biggest international event and a perennial favorite for participants and attendees alike. More than 3,000 people from campus and the community attend each year. It features over 100 separate events, booths and activities organized by both campus and community associations that have an international focus, as well as UM's diverse international student and scholar community. Detailed information on this event can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1AhhGp2>.

The OIP also will highlight UM employees who are born outside the U.S. with a profile on its Facebook page. The features can be read online at <https://www.facebook.com/uminternationalprograms>.

For the monthlong schedule and event details, visit <http://www.umt.edu/international-programs/international-month>.

UM's OIP works to promote and provide international life-changing experiences and related educational opportunities, serving as a resource that contributes to the culture of a globally minded community.

For more information call OIP Assistant to the Director Sonja Grimmsmann at 406-243-6865 or email [sonja1.grimmsmann@umontana.edu](mailto:sonja1.grimmsmann@umontana.edu).

**Contact:** Sonja Grimmsmann, assistant to the director, UM Office of International Programs, 406-243-6865, [sonja1.grimmsmann@umontana.edu](mailto:sonja1.grimmsmann@umontana.edu).



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# International Culture and Food Festival Returns to UM March 22

February 27, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana will host the 2015 International Culture and Food Festival from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 22, in the University Center. The annual event is part of UM's celebration of International Month throughout March. The theme of this year's festival is "Big Sky, Rising Sun."

Festival tickets cost \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3 to 12. Ticket price includes access to all festival events. Food purchases are separate. Tickets are available at the door the day of the event or in advance from Foreign Student and Scholar Services by calling 406-243-2226.

The event is an extravaganza where guests can visit colorful display booths featuring countries around the world; thrill in a five-hour International Culture Show featuring music, song and dance seldom seen in Missoula; visit Children's World with crafts, storytelling, games and other interactive events; watch films from the Montana International Children's Film Festival; and savor delicious food from all corners of the globe in the Food Bazaar, with over 20 food booths offering culinary specialties, most of them handmade.

The festival is Missoula's biggest international event and a perennial favorite for participants and attendees alike.

More than 3,000 people from campus and the community attend. It features over 100 separate events, booths and activities organized by both campus and community associations that have an international focus, as well as UM's diverse international student and scholar community. The event is hosted by UM's International Student Association and Foreign Student and Scholar Services and made possible by the generous sponsorship from UM and the Associated Students of UM.

This year the festival will partner with the Japan Friendship Club of Montana to showcase the 30th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Kumamoto prefecture and the state of Montana. The club will present images and information about Kumamoto, as well as information about how to participate in the Montana-Kumamoto relationship. The festival also will feature an auction of international arts, crafts and dinners. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Missoula International Friendship Program, which offers support to UM's international students.

For more information about the festival, call Mona Mondava, festival director, at 406-243-6059 or email [mona.mondava@umontana.edu](mailto:mona.mondava@umontana.edu). For information about other events taking place during UM's International Month, call Sonja Grimmsmann at 406-243-6865 or email [sonja.grimmsmann@mso.umt.edu](mailto:sonja.grimmsmann@mso.umt.edu).

**Contact:** Mona Mondava, UM International Culture and Food Festival director, 406-243-6059, [mona.mondava@umontana.edu](mailto:mona.mondava@umontana.edu).



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# Mansfield Center to Host Documentary Screening on China's Ghost Cities

February 26, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana, in conjunction with UM's East Asian Studies, will host a showing of the documentary "The Land of Many Palaces" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Missoula's Roxy Theater.

The 60-minute documentary on China's current efforts to move 250 million rural villagers into urban cities will be followed by a Q-and-A session with the film's co-director and co-producer, Adam James Smith. It is free and open to the public.

China is in the middle of an epic social engineering undertaking that seeks to move 250 million people from rural villages into newly built cities in an effort to promote modernization and combat the intense poverty in China's poorest rural villages. While these new cities offer access to critical services like modern schools and hospitals, many of the villagers being moved fear a lack of jobs in these new cities and losing the income from their farms to support them as they age.

"The Land of Many Palaces" follows the stories of a government official tasked with convincing farmers that their

lives will be better in the new cities and a farmer who is being pressured to move.

Adam James Smith, co-director and co-producer of the film, is a Stanford-educated documentary filmmaker from England whose films focus on characters experiencing rapid change in their lives. He has produced, directed and edited four short documentaries in America and also worked for TED, Rabbit Bandini Productions, Stanford University's Office of Public Affairs, the China Central Academy of Fine Arts and the Chinese National Academy of Painting. He worked on "The Land of Many Palaces" in conjunction with co-producer and co-director Song Ting, a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University who has worked on films across Asia and in the U.S. He also worked with co-producer Qihan Wang, who has produced documentary projects for China Central Television, BBC, Channel 4, National Geographic and CBC Television.

The Mansfield Center at UM promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield (1903-2001) and his wife and life-partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. The center houses programs that focus on the people and cultures of modern Asia and ethics in public affairs – the core interests and hallmarks of Sen. Mansfield's career.

More information is available at <http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/>.

**Contact:** Caitlin Sager, UM Mansfield Center administrative assistant, 406-243-2965, [caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu](mailto:caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM Jumps Six Spots, Ranks No. 6 for Producing Peace Corps Volunteers

February 26, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana has been named the No. 6 medium-sized university for producing Peace Corps volunteers, making a big jump up from its 2014 ranking at No. 12. Currently, 27 UM alumni serve with the Peace Corps worldwide.

“Every year the Peace Corps unveils the upper echelon of colleges and universities that have distinguished themselves at the top of its volunteer-producing schools,” said Peace Corps West Coast Regional Manager Erin Carlson. “We take enormous pride in recognizing the University of Montana as one of the 23 universities from the West Coast producing dedicated individuals who personify the Peace Corps mission of promoting world peace and friendship. It’s wonderful to see the school move up six spots in the rankings.”

2015 also marks the 11th year the University has placed in the top 25 on the medium-sized volunteer-producing colleges and universities list.

Alumni from more than 3,000 colleges and universities nationwide have served in the Peace Corps since the agency’s founding in 1961, including 832 alumni from UM.

UM is the first public university in the country to partner with the Peace Corps to offer the Peace Corps Preparatory Program. Any UM student can earn a Peace Corps Preparatory Certificate through participation in the International Development Studies minor in UM's College of Humanities and Sciences. UM also offers two Master's International Programs, a Master of Science in international conservation and development and a Master of Art in global youth development, which allows students to earn their graduate degrees while serving in the Peace Corps.

Ashley Rice, a global youth development master's international student at UM, currently is serving and finishing up her degree. She says UM helped her develop skills that have not only benefited her Peace Corps service, but will help her years down the road.

"The Peace Corps has been the most rewarding and challenging experience of my life," Rice said. "The skills that I have learned both personally and professionally are immeasurable. The communities that I've lived and worked in have left a lasting impression on me."

This year's rankings follow historic reforms to the Peace Corps' application and selection process, led by Hessler-Radelet, that resulted in a 22-year application high for the agency in 2014.

Service in the Peace Corps is a life-defining, hands-on leadership experience that offers volunteers the opportunity to travel to the farthest corners of the world and make lasting differences in the lives of others. Peace Corps volunteers live and work at the community level and promote a better understanding between Americans and the people they serve, while at the same time becoming global citizens.

For more information call UM Peace Corps campus representative Amber Gladney at 406-243-2839 or email [peacecorps@umontana.edu](mailto:peacecorps@umontana.edu). Those interested in volunteering with the Peace Corps are encouraged to stop by UM's Peace Corps office, which is located in UM's Office of Career Services in Lommasson Center Room 154.

**Contact:** Amber Gladney, UM Peace Corps campus representative, 406-243-2839, [peacecorps@umontana.edu](mailto:peacecorps@umontana.edu).



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# UM Physical Therapy Students Host Massage Clinic Fundraiser

February 26, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana Physical Therapy Student Association members will offer 20- and 40-minute massages during campus fundraising clinics held in March.

The clinics will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. March 9-12, 16-19 and 23-26 in Skaggs Building Room 129. A 20-minute massage costs \$12, and a 40-minute massage is \$20. Cash or check only will be accepted as payment.

Proceeds directly support scholarships for UM physical therapy students and will help them attend local and national conferences.

Appointments are required and can be made by calling 406-243-4753.

**Contact:** Sierra Richmond, UM physical therapy student, 406-243-4753, [sierra.richmond@umontana.edu](mailto:sierra.richmond@umontana.edu).



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# Work by Famed Mexican Artist Available for Viewing at UM

February 26, 2015

**MISSOULA** – A new work by famed Mexican artist Gabriel Orozco will be displayed Feb. 27-June 30 in the President’s Office at the University of Montana.

Titled “Inner Sections Alpha” (2014), the work is on loan through an anonymous private collection. Visitors can experience the painting firsthand in Main Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except during University holidays.

UM’s Montana Museum of Art & Culture is dedicated to creating learning opportunities and unique viewing opportunities for UM students and regional audiences. As both a university teaching collection and state museum, MMAC consistently schedules the highest quality traveling exhibitions and visiting artworks by internationally renowned artists.

Orozco was born in Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, in 1962 and studied at the Escuela Nacional de Arte Plasticas in Mexico City and at the Circulo de Bellas Artes in Madrid, Spain.

His interest in complex geometry and mapping is evident in his “Inner Sections” series. Here, Orozco creates a matrix of partial circles and negative space in a radiating pattern of gold leaf and colored tempera paint on stretched linen. Orozco explores the kinetic potential of this limited palette.

“Art Observed,” a contemporary fine art website, wrote of Orozco, “His work is constantly exploring possibilities of space and time, flow and movement ... Simple actions, minimal manipulations and frequently employed found objects flow in and out of view.”

One of the most prominent artists working today, he has exhibited at distinguished venues such as the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Venice Biennale.

In 2000, a retrospective of Orozco’s work was organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and traveled to Museo Internacional Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City, and Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Monterey, Mexico.

MMAC’s current exhibition, “Art of the State: Celebrating 120 Years of the MMAC Permanent Collection,” is on display through May 23 in the Paxson and Meloy galleries of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. The exhibition and a first-ever handbook of the collection celebrate the 120th anniversary of the MMAC Permanent Collection, which boasts nearly 11,000 objects. A full schedule of other programs planned throughout the exhibition can be found online at <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/exeventsschedule/calendar.aspx>.

MMAC’s academic year gallery hours are noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday. The museum is open to the public with a suggested \$5 donation. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

**Contact:** Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, [barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu](mailto:barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu); Brandon Reintjes, MMAC curator of art, [brandon.reintjes@mso.umt.edu](mailto:brandon.reintjes@mso.umt.edu).



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# India in Missoula Event Features Gandhi Lecture, Classical Music Masters

February 25, 2015

**MISSOULA** – From Mahatma Gandhi’s concept of nonviolence to the mastery of Indian classical music, the upcoming India in Missoula event will offer a multifaceted experience of a vibrant and diverse culture.

Arranged for the third year in a row by the University of Montana’s India Advisory Council, the March 2-7 free series of events seeks to engage students, faculty and staff from all disciplines, as well as members of the community.

“Indian civilization has had many long-lived and lively traditions,” said council chair Bradley Clough, a liberal studies associate professor at UM. “We are trying to expose UM and the community to some of the richest and most sophisticated cultures in world history.”

The weeklong series kicks off Monday, March 2, with a guest lecture by J. Barton Scott titled “Gandhi and the Global Travels of Nonviolence.” The lecture will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room. Scott, whose work focuses on the intersection of religion and politics in South Asia, is an assistant professor in the Department of History and Philosophy at Montana State University.

Tuesday, March 3, the public is invited to a lunchtime interactive demonstration of how spices can be used to optimize health. It will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the University Center Room 329.

Thursday, March 5, Keith Bosak, of UM's College of Forestry and Conservation, will present on UM's participation in the Obama Singh Initiative to strengthen collaboration between U.S. and Indian institutions of higher education. The lecture will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in The Payne Family Native American Center Room 009.

A classical concert will be the grand finale of India in Missoula. It will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7, in the Performing Arts and Radio Television Center's Masquer Theatre. It will feature sarod master Alam Khan and tabla master Javad Butah.

UM has faculty members of Indian origin in departments as varied as mathematics, political science and pharmacy. Last year approximately 40 UM students participated in study abroad programs in India.

India in Missoula is supported by UM's South and Southeast Asia Studies, African-American Studies, Liberal Studies and Religious Studies, as well as by the Office of International Programs, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the Mansfield Center, the Mansfield Program in Ethics and Public Affairs, the Faculty Professional Enhancement Program, Foreign Student and Scholar Services and Missoula's Days Inn.

**Contact:** Bradley Clough, associate professor, UM Liberal Studies Program, 406-243-2837, [bradley.clough@mso.umt.edu](mailto:bradley.clough@mso.umt.edu).



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# SpectrUM's Hands on Health Exhibit Featured at 2015 Heart Expo

February 25, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area will bring pieces of its popular “Hands on Health” exhibit to the Heart Expo at Providence St. Patrick Hospital on Saturday, Feb. 28.

The Heart Expo is a free, public event held from 7 a.m. to noon at the Broadway Building Conference Center, located at 500 W. Broadway St. in Missoula.

Participants can gather information about heart care, attend lectures by health care providers from the International Heart Institute of Montana and take low-cost health screenings.

SpectrUM's “Hands on Health” exhibit engages young participants with guided, hands-on activities that explore the human body and health careers. Visitors can explore a health assessment station, a life-size medical teaching torso for simulated surgery activities and guided heart dissections. This tour stop is powered by the International Heart Institute of Montana Foundation.

Director Holly Truitt said spectrUM's goal is to “inspire Montana's next generation of scientists, health care

providers, engineers and visionaries.”

Since 2006, spectrUM has traveled exhibits and educators to 75 schools and public libraries in 29 counties, including all seven American Indian reservations in Montana. In total, spectrUM has served 44,985 people, of whom 30 percent are Native American and 75 percent live in rural communities. January marked the first time spectrUM has taken its mobile tour outside Montana, traveling to the Tri-Cities Family Expo health fair in Pasco, Washington.

Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, the spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula. Annually, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans through in-museum and mobile partnering.

National sponsors include SciGirls, NISE Network, Western Montana Area Health Education Center and the Noyce Foundation. SpectrUM is supported by an array of funding sources, including the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has provided the gift of science to more than 9,589 Montana children.

The public can visit the spectrUM Discovery Area at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula. Public hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Admission costs \$3.50 per person.

For more information or to book a school visit, call spectrUM STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-728-7868 or visit <http://www.spectrum.umt.edu>.

**Contact:** Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-728-7836, [jessie.herbert@umontana.edu](mailto:jessie.herbert@umontana.edu).



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# New Measurement Index Shows Decline in Child Poverty

February 25, 2015

**MISSOULA** – A different method of measuring child poverty has determined that 39,000 Montana children were lifted out of poverty since 2011.

A report released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation shows that the federal government's official poverty measure created in the 1960s uses outdated information on how U.S. families are faring today, failing to illustrate the effects of programs designed to help them.

The new KIDS COUNT Data Snapshot, "Measuring Access to Opportunity in the United States," points to a better index for measuring poverty – the Supplemental Poverty Measure – which captures the effect of safety net programs and tax policies on families.

By using the SPM, researchers have determined that the rate of children in poverty has declined nationally from 33 percent to 18 percent as a result of these programs and policies.

"In Montana, using the SPM illustrates that the rate of children in poverty has declined from 30 percent to 13

percent,” says Jennifer Calder, communications director for Montana KIDS COUNT. “In other words, from 2011 to 2013, safety net programs and tax policies have lifted 39,000 children out of poverty in our state.”

“The official poverty measure does not provide the accurate information policymakers need to measure the success of anti-poverty programs – nationally and at the state level,” said Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. “Relying on this tool alone prevents policymakers from gauging the effectiveness of government programs aimed at reducing child poverty. The SPM is an important tool that should be used to assess state-level progress in fighting poverty.”

The official poverty measure, created in the 1960s, is based on a formula that calculated the minimum cost to feed a family a nutritionally adequate diet and multiplied that by three because at that time, food costs made up about one-third of the average family budget. Much has changed since the 1960s. Today, food costs represent less than 10 percent of a typical family budget; the official measure of poverty has not been updated to reflect modern budgets.

The Supplemental Poverty Measure, created by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2011, factors in the impact of a number of social programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Earned Income Tax Credit, and takes into account rising costs and other changes that affect a family’s budget.

The SPM also provides a more accurate assessment of poverty levels on a state and regional basis as it helps illustrate the variations in the cost of living across states like Montana versus California, and the differences in impact of federal programs from one state to the next.

“Measuring Access to Opportunity in the United States” provides national and state-by-state data using the SPM to show the effect of a variety of federal supports to help low-income families.

Similar to the official poverty measure, the SPM shows that poverty rates among American Indian children were approximately two-and-a-half times higher (26 percent), than that of white children (10 percent).

In every state, anti-poverty programs tracked by the SPM have led to a reduction in the child poverty rate. Because federal benefits are not adjusted for differences in regional costs of living, they are likely to have a more significant impact in states where the cost of living is relatively low.

States and localities also vary in their contribution to the safety net programs and tax policies that can help move children out of poverty. These federal and state programs and policies helped cut the child poverty rate by more than 20 percent in Kentucky, Mississippi and the District of Columbia. States where government intervention has had a lesser effect on decreasing child poverty include North Dakota, New Hampshire and Alaska.

“Continued investment in the development of the SPM can ensure our resources are directed in ways that give our children the best opportunity to succeed,” said Laura Speer, the foundation’s associate director of policy reform and advocacy. “It’s critical that we look beyond just the federal poverty rate to evaluate the success of important social programs.”

“Measuring Access to Opportunity in the United States” follows the Casey Foundation’s 2014 report, “Creating Opportunities for Families: A Two-Generation Approach,” which outlined additional recommendations for helping

families raise themselves out of poverty that include:

- Expanding access to high-quality early education.
- Changing tax credit policies to help families keep more of what they earn.
- Expanding and streamlining food and housing subsidies.
- Developing approaches that link programs for kids – like Head Start – with programs for their parents, such as education and job training.

The report can be accessed online at <http://www.aecf.org/>. For more information on how Montana has been affected by this study, call Montana KIDS COUNT Director Thale Dillon at 406-243-5113 or email [thale.dillon@business.umt.edu](mailto:thale.dillon@business.umt.edu).

**Contact:** Thale Dillon, director, Montana KIDS COUNT, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, [thale.dillon@business.umt.edu](mailto:thale.dillon@business.umt.edu); Jennifer Calder, communications director, Montana KIDS COUNT, 406-243-2725, [jennifer.calder@business.umt.edu](mailto:jennifer.calder@business.umt.edu).



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# Renowned Pianist to Host Free Masterclass at UM Feb. 27

February 25, 2015

**MISSOULA** – World-renowned pianist Spencer Myer will host a free, public masterclass from 3 to 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 27, in the Music Recital Hall at the University of Montana.

The class is sponsored by UM's Keyboard Society in cooperation with the Missoula Symphony Orchestra.

Hailed as "one of the most important American artists of his generation," Myer graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard School. He has won several prestigious international piano competitions, including the 10th Unisa International Piano Competition in Pretoria, South Africa, in 2004.

Myer first came to Missoula in 2014 as a part of UM's Celebrate Piano Series, and just a few weeks after his stellar performance, the Missoula Symphony Orchestra invited him to return. Myer will perform Rachmaninoff's heartrending "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" with the Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale on Saturday, Feb. 28, and Sunday, March 1. Learn more about his concerts at <http://www.missoulasymphony.org>.

**Contact:** Steven Hesla, professor, UM School of Music, 406-243-6055, [steven.hesla@umontana.edu](mailto:steven.hesla@umontana.edu).





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# Business Adviser and Former WSJ Reporter to Lecture at UM

February 25, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Former Wall Street Journal financial editor Steve Lipin will deliver the annual Jeff Cole Distinguished Lecture at 7 p.m. Monday, March 9, in University of Montana Law Building Room 201. The event is free and open to the public.

The talk, titled “The Competition for Eyeballs and Clicks in the Digital World,” is the seventh installment of the UM School of Journalism’s annual Jeff Cole Distinguished Lecture Series. The series honors Cole, a Butte native who graduated from the School of Journalism in 1980. He was the aeronautics editor at The Wall Street Journal when he was killed in a plane crash while on assignment in January 2001.

Lipin currently is senior partner at Brunswick Group LLC, a communications advisory firm based in New York. He counsels clients on mergers and acquisitions, investor relations and crisis situations.

Before working at Brunswick, Lipin spent 10 years at The Wall Street Journal where he was the finance editor, supervising the paper’s coverage of mergers, commercial banking, private equity and corporate finance. From 1995 to 2000, Lipin covered mergers and acquisitions for the Journal. He also reported on commercial banking and

capital markets.

Lipin is proud to say he and Cole were longtime reporting partners and were nominated for a Pulitzer Prize by the Journal for their coverage of mergers in the aerospace sector. Lipin also was a member of a team that won an Overseas Press Club award.

Lipin has been a guest speaker at the Tulane Law School Corporate Law Institute, Columbia Journalism School, Penn Law School and the Yale School of Management. He serves as a board member of Student Sponsor Partners, a member of the board of advisers of the Knight-Bagehot Fellowship in Economics and Business Journalism at Columbia Journalism School, and a member of the board of overseers of the Columbia Journalism Review.

The lecture is supported by the Jeff Cole Legacy Fund, which also offers an annual scholarship and a spring dinner for students who work at the Montana Kaimin, UM's independent student newspaper.

For more information call UM School of Journalism Communication and Events Coordinator Julia Cummings at 406-243-4366 or email [julia.cummings@mso.umt.edu](mailto:julia.cummings@mso.umt.edu).

**Contact:** Julia Cummings, UM School of Journalism communication and events coordinator, 406-243-4366, [julia.cummings@mso.umt.edu](mailto:julia.cummings@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM to Host First Public Planetarium Shows Feb. 27

February 24, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana Department of Physics and Astronomy invites the public to its first public planetarium shows on Friday, Feb. 27, in the Payne Family Native American Center Star Gazing Room.

The 50-minute shows begin at 7 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$6 for adults and \$4 for children ages 12 and younger. Tickets are limited and are available for purchase online at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/star-gazing-room-planetarium-shows-tickets-15806065367?ref=ebtnebtckt>. Sales end one hour before each show or when sold out.

“We are delighted to be opening the doors of the Star Gazing Room to the public at large,” UM Department of Physics and Astronomy outreach coordinator Mark Reiser said. “It’s an exciting time for our department and hopefully the greater Missoula community.”

Each program will take attendees on a tour of the current night skies of Missoula, pointing out noteworthy objects, constellations, planets or upcoming events visible in the night sky. The show then will shift to an engaging topic, or set of topics, chosen by that evening’s presenter.

Topics will range from a focus on unique night sky phenomena, our solar system and its exploration, extra-solar planets found within the Milky Way, stellar groupings in our galaxy or large-scale patterns of the universe as a whole.

“Our new digital planetarium is equipped with a cutting-edge, world-class projector,” Reiser said. “It contains a vast amount of real-time data, including positions of real objects throughout the universe. It can easily depict the sky we would see from Missoula 100,000 years in the future and allow us to visit entirely different planets, stars or even galaxies.”

The maximum capacity for public shows is 25 people. Events may sell out quickly. Attendees should plan to be present 10 minutes before the beginning of the show, as the planetarium entrance will be locked after the show begins.

A second evening of programs will be offered at 7 and 8 p.m. Monday, March 23.

“We are thrilled to begin sharing this with the general public, and we thank all those in the Payne Family Native American Center for helping us make this a reality,” Reiser said.

For more information visit <http://cas.umt.edu/physics/Outreach/default.php>.

**Contact:** Mark Reiser, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy outreach coordinator, 406-243-2074, [mark.reiser@umontana.edu](mailto:mark.reiser@umontana.edu).



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# UM to Host National Book Award Nominee at Thinking Its Presence Conference

February 24, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana Creative Writing Program will host its second Thinking Its Presence conference on race, creative writing and literary study, Thursday through Saturday, March 12-14.

Claudia Rankine, a Jamaican-born poet who has been nominated for the National Book Award, will deliver the keynote address at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 14, in the University Center Theater.

Most conference events take place on the UM campus, but Shakespeare & Co. and the Missoula Art Museum also will host some of the conference readings and performances. A complete schedule is available online at <http://thinkingitspresencetheracia2015.sched.org/>. General registration for the three-day conference costs \$60 for the public and \$30 for non-UM students. The registration fee is waived for UM-affiliated faculty, students, staff and alumni. Tickets are available online at <http://cas.umt.edu/tip/raceandcreativewriting/default.php>. One-day tickets will be available to attend individual keynote events.



In addition to Rankine, the conference features writers and scholars Sarah Shun-lien Bynum, Marilyn Chin, Thomas Sayers Ellis, William S. YellowRobe and Ofelia Zepeda, among many others.

Thinking Its Presence examines creative writing and scholarship that rethinks the complex and inseparable links between literary forms and the racialized thinking, processes and histories that have shaped this country since its founding. The conference brings together the discipline and teaching of creative writing with perspectives from critical race theory, poetics, performance studies, literary theory, literary history, ethnic literatures and Native American and indigenous studies.

The conference title comes from scholar Dorothy Wang's book "Thinking Its Presence: Form, Race and Subjectivity in Contemporary Asian American Poetry." Wang's book makes the larger case "that aesthetic forms are inseparable from social, political and historical contexts when it comes to writing and reception of poetry."

In addition to being supported by many campuswide programs, departments and centers, as well as local Missoula businesses and organizations, Thinking Its Presence is sponsored by UM's College of Humanities & Sciences and the Creative Writing Program.

For more information email English Professor Prageeta Sharma at [prageeta.sharma@mso.umt.edu](mailto:prageeta.sharma@mso.umt.edu) or visit the Thinking Its Presence website at <http://cas.umt.edu/tip/raceandcreativewriting/default.php>. The website includes a full list of sponsors and donors.

**Contact:** Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, [arin.schalm@mso.umt.edu](mailto:arin.schalm@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM Film Series to Celebrate 25th Anniversary of ADA

February 24, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities will offer a film series to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a law that has advanced the quality of life for people with disabilities.

The films are all free and open to the public. The showings will be from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 26, March 25 and April 15 in the University Center Theater. Each screening will be followed by an audience discussion with expert panelists.

The schedule includes “FIXED: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement” on Thursday, Feb. 26. This film looks closely at the drive to be “better than human” and the radical technological innovations that may take us there.

“Enter the Faun” will be screened Wednesday, March 25, and is about a choreographer who encounters a young actor with cerebral palsy. After she invites him to dance the lead in her latest production, his prognosis, to be in a wheelchair by age 40, morphs into a far different reality.

“Sins Invalid” and “For All” are both scheduled for Wednesday, April 15. “Sins Invalid” is a performance project on disability and sexuality that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralizing artists of color and queer and gender-variant artists as communities who have been historically marginalized.

“For All” is about the first all-abilities playground in Missoula that was built with the help of the community. The film follows seven children with disabilities as they contribute to the design and experience a playground built with them in mind for the first time.

Since 1978, UM’s Rural Institute has worked to improve the skills, abilities and quality of life of people with disabilities in rural communities, including their families and those who serve and support them. The film series is one of many activities the institute will promote in celebration of the 25th anniversary of ADA. In 1990, when ADA was signed into law, the United States committed itself to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities. UM is proud to be part of the effort.

People interested in learning more or attending the film series should visit <http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/>. For more information call Beth Burman-Frazeo at 406-243-6721 or email [beth.burman-frazeo@umontana.edu](mailto:beth.burman-frazeo@umontana.edu).

**Contact:** Beth Burman-Frazeo, marketing director, UM School of Extended & Lifelong Learning, 406-243-6721, [beth.burman-frazeo@umontana.edu](mailto:beth.burman-frazeo@umontana.edu).



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# Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Recruitment Event Set for March 6-8

February 24, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The third annual interdisciplinary graduate recruitment weekend will be held Friday through Sunday, March 6-8, at the University of Montana.

The event invites graduate applicants to explore six UM graduate programs: chemistry; cellular, molecular and microbial biology; biochemistry and biophysics; neuroscience; biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences; and medicinal chemistry.

Last year's recruitment event drew in 15 talented applicants from across the country, many of whom joined one of the participating graduate programs. This year's recruitment event expects to draw in more than 18 nationwide applicants.

The interdisciplinary graduate recruiting events are sponsored by the Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics, the Division of Biological Sciences, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Office of the Vice President of Research and Creative Scholarship.

For more about interdisciplinary graduate biomedical, cellular, biochemical and chemical sciences at UM, visit <http://www.umt.edu/grad/bcbcprograms/news.php>.

**Contact:** Cathy Jo Beecher, program coordinator, UM Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics, 406-243-6003, [cathy.beecher@umontana.edu](mailto:cathy.beecher@umontana.edu).



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# UM Dining Receives Grant for Campus Garden Expansion

February 24, 2015

**Missoula** – University of Montana Dining has received a \$10,000 Growth Through Agriculture grant from the Montana Agriculture Development Council. The funds will support the expansion of the on-campus edible garden space. The grant funding will be matched by UM Dining.

The current UM Dining Garden is just steps from the main dining hall on the mountain campus and is going into its fifth production year. The garden consistently has produced around 2,000 pounds of produce at a market value of approximately \$11,000. All produce grown in the garden is served on campus to students and campus guests.

“This grant will allow UM Dining to provide more opportunities for student engagement by expanding our on-campus learning laboratory,” said UM Dining Director Mark LoParco.

The garden provides opportunities for student engagement with urban agriculture and the Montana food system. In 2014, six interns earned academic credit for their work in the garden, which totaled 540 hours of service. The new funding will allow UM Dining to triple the size of its food production space on the mountain campus and will allow for greater academic partnership and student engagement opportunities.



“The garden expansion grant proposal was initially conceived as a student academic service learning project,” said Rebecca Wade, director of Health, Nutrition and Sustainability. “Students are increasingly interested and concerned about where their food comes from, and expanding garden space on campus will provide a window into the local and campus food system.”

The Montana Department of Agriculture’s Growth Through Agriculture program offers investments for new and innovative agriculture marketing ideas or agribusiness developments. For more information about the grant or UM dining, call UM Dining Director of Marketing Sam Belanger at 406-243-5089 or email [samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu](mailto:samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu).

**Contact:** Sam Belanger, UM Dining director of marketing, 406-243-5089, [samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu](mailto:samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu).



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# Spring Percussion Concert Slated for March 6 at UM

February 23, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana Percussion Ensemble and Islanders Steel Drum Band will present their spring concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 6, in the Dennison Theatre on the UM campus.

The concert will feature the music of renowned jazz guitarist Pat Metheny along with an eclectic mix of percussion music played on a variety of instruments, from marimbas to tin cans. The concert also will feature the Caribbean sounds of the UM Islanders Steel Drum Band.

Tickets are \$11 for general admission, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for students. For more information call percussion studies Director Robert Ledbetter at 406-243-4819 or email [robert.ledbetter@umontana.edu](mailto:robert.ledbetter@umontana.edu).

**Contact:** Robert Ledbetter, director of percussion studies, UM School of Music, 406-243-4819, [robert.ledbetter@umontana.edu](mailto:robert.ledbetter@umontana.edu).



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# National Expert on Gifted Education to Speak at UM, MCPS

February 23, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Nationally renowned expert and speaker on gifted education Jim Delisle will visit Missoula on Tuesday, Feb. 24, to provide two public lectures on gifted children, their education and how best to meet the needs of this unique population.

Delisle has taught both gifted children and those who work on their behalf for more than 30 years. A former classroom teacher and counselor, Delisle retired from Kent State University, where he served as director of undergraduate and graduate programs in gifted education for 25 years.



Hosted in conjunction with Missoula County Public Schools, this will be a unique opportunity to discuss recent progress in the field of gifted education, what gifted education really means and challenges facing gifted students.

“Jim Delisle is a leader in the field of educating teachers and parents about exceptional children and their needs,” MCPS director of gifted education programs Shirley Lindburg said. “MCPS is dedicated to meeting the needs of all of our students, and we are excited to offer this opportunity to our teachers, our parents and our community.”

While in Missoula, Delisle will provide two lectures. The first, “Learning to Exhale: Meeting the Intellectual and Emotional Needs of Gifted Children,” is slated for 4:15 p.m. in UM’s Gallagher Business Building Room 106. This talk will be geared toward K-12 teachers and administrators and will focus on understanding giftedness, accepting personal imperfections in self and others, and recognizing the fact that being gifted means a whole lot more than simply being smart.

The second lecture, “Parenting Precocious Kids: Understanding the Ups and Downs of Growing Up Gifted,” will be held at 7 p.m. in GBB Room 106. The talk will be geared toward parents and teachers and will focus on how best to meet the intellectual and emotional needs of gifted children, what giftedness is and how that label impacts other family members, and how to advocate for gifted child in a school setting mired in “bringing up the bottom” rather than “raising the bar” at the top.

“We could not be more thrilled to have Dr. Delisle visit our campus and community and provide his invaluable insight,” said Georgia Cobbs, professor and chair in UM’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction. “Exposure to such a critical thinker in a unique field will be fascinating and most welcome as we launch our new gifted-education curriculum within our teacher education program.”

“We appreciate our ongoing partnership with UM for making this possible, and we look forward to continued collaboration to help meet the needs of all Missoula children,” Lindburg said.

Delisle has served on the board of directors of the National Association for Gifted Children, Duke University Talent Identification Board, Council for Exceptional Children and the Roeper School for the Gifted.

The author of more than 250 articles and 15 books, Delisle’s work has been published in multiple languages worldwide. His work has been highlighted in The New York Times, the Washington Post, People Magazine and on Oprah. His book, “The Gifted Kids’ Survival Guide: A Teen Handbook,” which was co-written with Judy Galbraith, is among the most popular books published in the field of gifted child education, with more than 200,000 copies in print.

For more information on the UM visit, call Peter Knox, communications and outreach manager for the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, at 406-243-4911 or email [peter.knox@mso.umt.edu](mailto:peter.knox@mso.umt.edu).

**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](mailto:peter.knox@mso.umt.edu); Shirley Lindburg, director, MCPS COMPASS/Gifted Education and English Language Programs, 406-728-2400 ex. 1057, [salindburg@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:salindburg@mcps.k12.mt.us).



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# UM Art Historian to Speak on MMAC as a Great Research Collection

February 20, 2015

**MISSOULA** – H. Rafael Chacón, professor of art history and criticism at the University of Montana’s School of Art, will present a talk for the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center’s Masquer Theatre.

His talk, “Predilections and Possibilities: the Virtues of a Teaching Collection,” is the third in a series of programs focused on the exhibition “Art of the State: Celebrating 120 Years of the MMAC Permanent Collection” on display through May 23 in the Paxson and Meloy galleries of the PAR/TV Center. The exhibition and a first-ever handbook of the collection celebrate the 120th anniversary of the MMAC Permanent Collection. The collection now boasts nearly 11,000 objects.

When Chacón first came to campus in 1996, he already was aware of the MMAC Permanent Collection.

“I had worked in great museums like the Art Institute of Chicago and couldn’t wait to see the collections that the University of Montana had to offer,” he said.

He visited the collection within one week of moving to Montana. “The curator at that time, Dennis Kern, was very accommodating and opened the door pretty wide for me,” Chacón said.

According to Chacón, that initial visit began a love affair that continues to this day. Over the past 20 years, Chacón has come to know the collection very well.

“Great research and scholarship opportunities. Great objects. These are the hallmarks of the MMAC Permanent Collection,” he said.

Chacón has been a frequent collaborator with MMAC. His research on Missoula architect A.J. Gibson resulted in a publication, presentations and a MMAC exhibition, which later traveled the state under the auspices of the American Institute of Architects, Montana.

A noted public speaker, he has presented programs at the museum for past exhibitions, including a talk on the origins of museums, “Wunderkammer: Cabinets of Curiosity” and research for MMAC’s masterpiece series titled “The Centrality of the Figure in Early Modern Art.”

Chacón earned his graduate and doctorate degrees in art history with honors from the University of Chicago. He teaches, researches and writes about a range of topics, including architectural history, historic preservation and the development of art in the Inland Northwest.

He has written extensively about Montana modernist artists and has recently published an article titled “Montana Modernism: Contemporary Architecture in the Western State, 1945-1975” in Montana The Magazine of Western History.

A full schedule of other programs planned throughout the exhibition can be found online at <http://news.umt.edu/2015/01/011414mmac.php>.

The Montana Museum of Art & Culture is committed to making its Permanent Collection not only an important resource for UM but also for the people of the state and region.

MMAC’s academic year gallery hours are noon-3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday and noon-6 p.m. Thursday and Friday. The museum is open to the public with a suggested \$5 donation. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/>.

**Contact:** Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, [barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu](mailto:barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu); Brandon Reintjes, MMAC curator of art, [brandon.reintjes@mso.umt.edu](mailto:brandon.reintjes@mso.umt.edu), .

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# UM to Host MonTECH Assistive Technology Open House

February 20, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana will host MonTECH’s Assistive Technology Open House from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 27, in the Curry Health Services Building Room 042. The event is free and open to the public, and targets people who wish to learn more about the latest assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.

The umbrella term “assistive technology” encompasses items, equipment and software that increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities.

The open house will feature a variety of assistive technologies, including modified gaming equipment, alternative and augmentative communication devices, and eye-gaze technology. Staff will provide equipment demonstrations, showcasing exciting new devices available to Montanans through the MonTECH program. Participants also will learn about equipment loan programs offered through MonTECH.

Participants will have the chance to win a Livescribe SmartPen – donated by BoundlessAT – at the conclusion of the event. Individuals do not need to be present to win.

For more information about the open house or MonTECH's assistive technology services, visit <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/>, call MonTECH clinic coordinator Julie Doerner at 406-243-5486 or email [julie.doerner@umontana.edu](mailto:julie.doerner@umontana.edu).

**Contact:** Julie Doerner, clinic coordinator, MonTECH, 406-243-5486, [julie.doerner@umontana.edu](mailto:julie.doerner@umontana.edu).



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# Merriam-Frontier Award Winners to Read at UM's Mansfield Library

February 19, 2015

**MISSOULA** – University of Montana Creative Writing Program graduate students Jolene Brink and JP Kemmick were selected to receive this year's Merriam-Frontier Award.

The students will read their award-winning submissions from 4:10 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, in the Mansfield Library Theta Rho Room. The reading is free and open to the public.

Brink, a poetry graduate student, grew up in northern Minnesota and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of St. Benedict. Her work has appeared in *Postroad*, *WomenArts Quarterly Journal* and *Dislocate*. As a result of her submission for the Merriam-Frontier Award, *Red Bird* offered to publish her forthcoming poetry chapbook, "Peregrine."

Kemmick, who will receive his master's degree in fiction in May, grew up in Billings and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Pacific Lutheran University. He has been published in *Beecher's*, *Barrelhouse*, *A Capella Zoo* and *Camas* magazines, and elsewhere. Kemmick recently completed a novel about runaways, drugs, sex and mermaids in western Montana.

The judges, local writers Lois Welch, Bridget Carson and Ginny Merriam, said they selected Brink's work because "her wide-ranging and nimble poems allow mystery around the subject of loss and death." They also said, "they are original in conception and mature in craftsmanship."

The judges chose Kimmick's collection of short fiction, "Five Stories," because, "his wonderfully shaped stories take surprising and unexpected paths."

The Merriam-Frontier Award was established by H.G. Merriam, UM professor of English and creative writing from 1919 to 1954, and includes a \$500 prize and funds to publish the winning entries as a chapbook. The contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students each autumn semester.

Frontier, later titled Frontier and Midland, was a distinguished quarterly journal founded and edited by H.G. Merriam and published at UM from 1920 to 1939. Contributors included then-emerging talents Wallace Stegner, A.B. Guthrie Jr., William Saroyan, Dorothy Johnson, John Mason Brown, Weldon Kees, Thomas McGrath and many others. A particular strength of the journal was its frequent publication of work by young authors, a tradition the Merriam-Frontier Award honors and continues.

The reading is sponsored by the UM Creative Writing Program and the Mansfield Library. For more information call Creative Writing Program Coordinator Karin Schalm at 406-243-5267, email [karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu](mailto:karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu) or visit <http://www.cas.umt.edu/creativewriting>.

**Contact:** Karin Schalm, UM Creative Writing Program coordinator, 406-243-5267, [karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu](mailto:karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu).



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# Spring Funding Opportunity Available for Asia Research at UM

February 19, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center is now offering support to University of Montana faculty for Asia-related research through the Yamaguchi Opportunity Fund.

The generous support of Akira Yamaguchi allows the University to offer modest funding each fall and spring to faculty from all departments and schools for research and, to a lesser extent, curriculum development related to Asia.

Past awards have gone to faculty from the language, sociology and music departments. Supported activities include research-related travel, scholarly publications, conference participation and essential research materials.

Preference is given to full-time but pre-tenure faculty members, although other faculty will be considered. Limited support may be available for outstanding research proposals from UM graduate students. Awards typically are \$500, and the maximum award is \$1,000.

Interested faculty and students 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. A letter of support from a colleague in the field who is familiar with the applicant's work and able to assess the merits of the proposal must be included. Students should include a letter of support from a principal adviser.

The application deadline is Friday, March 27. All applications can be submitted by email attachment to [caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu](mailto:caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu). Awards will be announced in mid-April. For more information visit <http://umt.edu/mansfield/academics/facultyfunding.php>.

**Contact:** Abraham Kim, UM Mansfield Center director, 406-243-2988, [abraham.kim@umontana.edu](mailto:abraham.kim@umontana.edu).



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# UM Family Medicine Residency Program Earns High Marks

February 19, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana’s family medicine residency program recently was awarded the highest level of accreditation available from its oversight organization.

The Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana earned the high marks from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. UM launched the residency program in 2013, and it will train 30 medical residents at a time after the third class is added this year.

“This is a manifestation of immense work by our staff, faculty and residents to create and implement a high quality family medicine training program,” Program Director Ned Vasquez said. “Their decision was based on a site visit in late July 2014 and our submission of information electronically into the ACGME Accreditation Data System.”

The ACGME decision moves the residency program from its initial provisional status into a new 10-year cycle, which is the top achievable accreditation level. It requires all programs to submit a thorough annual evaluation, on which ongoing accreditation status is based. An extensive self-study will be completed after 10 years, and actual accreditation site visits are unlikely.

Vasquez said they look forward to March, when individuals will join the program to create the third class.

“We had over 800 applications for our 10 slots this year and interviewed about 80 medical students for seven lots in Missoula and 30 for three positions in Kalispell. We also added our ninth faculty member in January and are targeting the addition of two faculty in June – one in Kalispell and one in Missoula.”

Montana historically has ranked 50th in the nation for graduate medical education slots, with only two residency positions for every 100,000 people. The U.S. average is about 25 per 100,000. Vasquez said this is a challenge for Montana because physicians tend to locate in the area where they complete their training. More Montana family medicine resident positions will result in more doctors staying in Montana. About 70 percent of the Billings residency program graduates have stayed in Montana.

ACGME is a private, professional organization responsible for the accreditation of about 9,500 residency education programs. For more information visit <https://www.acgme.org/>.

**Contact:** Ned Vasquez, program director, Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana, 406-258-4414, [ned.vasquez@mso.umt.edu](mailto:ned.vasquez@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM Students Named Gates Millennium Scholars, Earn \$43,000 in Scholarships

February 18, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Five University of Montana students recently were named Gates Millennium Scholars, earning more than \$43,000 in scholarships.

Taymee Brandon, a chemistry major and art studio minor from **Great Falls**, was awarded \$806; Trevor Hawley, a microbiology major and psychology minor from **Harlem**, will receive \$6,306; Aleah OldMouse, a nursing major from **Browning**, earned \$1,349; Adriane Tailfeathers, a history/political science education major from **Browning**, earned \$5,349; and Morgan Sublett, a wildlife biology major from **Kooskia, Idaho**, was awarded \$29,907.

Since the inception of the program in 1999, it has produced more than 18,000 Gates Millennium Scholars at more than 1,800 institutions of higher education, awarding over \$800 million in scholarships to date. UM students have received a total of \$1,193,285 from the program.

The GMS Scholarship Award provides support for the cost of education by covering unmet need and self-help aid; renewable awards for students maintaining satisfactory academic progress; graduate school funding for scholars in the areas of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science; and

leadership development programs with distinctive personal, academic and professional growth opportunities.

The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential. Recipients have achieved a six-year graduation rate of over 90 percent – double the national average of students from similar backgrounds.

**Contact:** UM Financial Aid Office, 406-243-5373, [faid@mso.umt.edu](mailto:faid@mso.umt.edu).



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## UM News

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# UM Student to Investigate Treeline as Potential Refuge for Whitebark Pine from Beetle Outbreak

February 18, 2015

**MISSOULA** – University of Montana doctoral student Colin Maher recently was awarded a \$1,000 competitive grant from the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation for his research on whitebark pine tree survival at high elevation.

Maher is studying with professors Andrew Larson and Cara Nelson in UM's College of Forestry and Conservation. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Maher's research looks at how the "krummholz"



form of whitebark pine trees – the smaller, more shrub-like version that grows at treeline elevation – might be more resistant to mountain pine beetle attacks than other forms of the tree.

“Other researchers have speculated that the krummholz form is immune to mountain pine beetle attack,” Maher said, “but this research will be the first to investigate that claim.”

Recent outbreaks of mountain pine beetles have caused drastic declines in numbers of whitebark pine throughout the western United States. Maher will investigate the role that the treeline may play in mediating the impacts of beetle outbreaks.

For more information on the research or the grant, call Maher at 831-227-4795 or email [cmbristlecone@gmail.com](mailto:cmbristlecone@gmail.com).

**Contact:** Colin Maher, UM doctoral student, 831-227-4795, [cmbristlecone@gmail.com](mailto:cmbristlecone@gmail.com).



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## UM News

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# UM Students Win Prize for Business Idea with Wood Waste

February 18, 2015

**MISSOULA** – University of Montana College of Forestry and Conservation student Stephen Jenkins from **Bigfork** and recent forestry graduate Jena Trejo from **Marcola, Oregon**, were first runners-up in the Barrett Foundation Business Concept Challenge.

The challenge, sponsored by the National Forest Foundation and supported by donor Craig Barrett, recognizes business ideas that solve natural resource challenges in America's national forests.



Jenkins and Trejo developed a business plan to convert logging slash and other wood waste into methanol and liquid carbon dioxide through a mobile gasification unit. They will process low-value woody biomass from forest thinning and lumber mill operations with equipment small enough to bring to processing sites, eliminating the costly

transport issues that currently limit biomass production. Jenkins and Trejo received a \$25,000 prize.

Sponsor Craig Barrett, former chairman and CEO of Intel and current chairman of the National Forest Foundation's board of directors, described the purpose of this competition as "stimulating new ideas and cultivating the next generation of entrepreneurial natural resource and business leaders."

"We're so proud of Jena and Stephen for working to solve the really tough issue of finding a market for small-diameter wood," UM College of Forestry and Conservation Dean Jim Burchfield said. "The college is lucky to have such hard-working, innovative students and we appreciate the National Forest Foundation and Craig Barrett for recognizing these two talented students."

**Contact:** Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, [leana.schelvan@umontana.edu](mailto:leana.schelvan@umontana.edu).



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## UM News

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# Mansfield Center Opens Early Registration for Asia-Montana Energy Conference

February 18, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Leading experts, government officials, business leaders and civic officials from Montana, the United States and Asia will meet at the University of Montana on Wednesday and Thursday, April 29-30, to discuss complex issues surrounding the future of energy and how it shapes our global economy, environment and society.

UM's Mansfield Center will host the 2015 annual conference, "The Asia-Montana Energy Summit," during which experts will lead two days of plenary and breakout sessions that are free and open to the public.

Space is limited, and early bird registration is available Feb.18-March 18 at <http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/events/conference/>. Attendees who register early will receive access to advance registration for limited-seating breakout sessions, early bird parking during the conference and a chance to win an invitation to an April 29 private dinner reception with conference speakers and Lt. Gov. Angela McLean.

Energy enables our lives, from the cars we drive to the computers and smartphones that connect us to the world. In Montana, energy opens the doors for new economic opportunities in fossil and renewable energy sources and affords our state stronger international ties with trade partners in Asia. Additionally, we must balance these opportunities with the impacts to our environment.

Local and international experts will address these issues and more through plenary sessions such as “The Current State of the U.S.” and “International Energy Markets,” “Dynamics and Trends in the Asia Energy Markets and Economics,” “The Geopolitics of Energy,” “The Importance of Financing in Shaping the Energy Future” and “The Future of Montana’s Energy.” Breakout sessions will include “Technology Advancements in Oil and Gas,” Innovation in Renewable Energy,” “Native American Energy Resources in Montana,” “The Future of Fuel Cells and Energy Storage,” “Smart Grids and Transmission,” “The Federal and State Regulatory Nexus,” “Energy Efficiency” and “Carbon Sequestration.”

Open registration and the full agenda will be available March 23. For more information visit

<http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/events/conference/>.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at UM promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield (1903-2001) and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. The center houses programs that focus on the peoples and cultures of modern Asia and ethics in public affairs – the core interests and hallmarks of Sen. Mansfield’s career.

**Contact:** Abraham Kim, director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2988,

[abraham.kim@umontana.edu](mailto:abraham.kim@umontana.edu).



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## UM News

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# BBER Study Finds High Impact From Montana's High-Tech Businesses

February 17, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Montana's high-tech industry will grow 8-10 times the projected statewide growth rate, with average wages at about \$50,000 – twice the median earnings per Montana worker, according to a recent study by the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

BBER Director Patrick Barkey conducted the study, which was commissioned by the Montana High Tech Business Alliance. It found that high-tech jobs in Montana outpace other sectors and hold high impact potential for the future of the state.

"The alliance asked us to collect information and insights from its members so that a better assessment of its economic footprint and its prospects for continued growth could be made," Barkey said. "The result showed high-tech employers on average to be younger, higher paying and more growth-focused than the economy as a whole and that Montana quality-of-life plays an important role in their competitiveness."

BBER's study was the first of its kind on the state's high-tech industry and was based on a survey of MHTBA members. Some of the findings include:

- The Montana-based activities of MHTBA members were responsible for \$632 million in gross sales in 2014;
- Alliance members expect to net more than 400 new jobs in 2015, a much stronger job growth than has occurred in the overall economy;
- High-tech businesses that are MHTBA members expect to make at least \$35 million in capital expenditures at their Montana facilities in 2015; and,
- Montana's quality-of-life – its lifestyle, the work/life balance available here, the recreation opportunities and the beauty of the landscape – provide MHTBA members a significant advantage in business.

“This report shows that high-tech and manufacturing companies in Montana generate substantial returns and create high-wage jobs,” said Christina Henderson, director of MHTBA. “For the first time ever, Montana has a benchmark by which to measure the high-tech industry’s increasing economic impact. This survey is critical in identifying opportunities for future business growth in our state.”

The Montana High Tech Business Alliance is a statewide membership organization made up of 140 firms. The BBER survey, conducted in November and December of 2014, had 78 respondents out of 101 surveyed members with high-tech operations in Montana. The BBER study is available online at <http://www.bber.umt.edu/>.

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at UM is a research center producing economic and industry data for Montana. For more information visit <http://www.bber.umt.edu>.

**Contact:** Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, [patrick.barkey@mso.umt.edu](mailto:patrick.barkey@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM Launches New Initiative to Inspire K-12 Students about Higher Education

February 13, 2015

**MISSOULA** – A new initiative at the University of Montana will connect UM faculty members with K-12 students, allowing them to preview the excitement and rigors of college life.

The initiative is called We Are Montana in the Classroom, and will launch Friday, Feb. 20, during TEDxUMontana. At the event, 75 Missoula-area high school students will experience backstage access to the speakers and their talks, which this year are centered on the theme of language.

The cohort of high school juniors and seniors will participate in a dinner with TEDx speakers. The discussion will be moderated by UM Professor Steve Running. They also will have a leadership conversation with Missoula Mayor John Engen and participate in breakout sessions led by UM faculty members Dan Spencer, Erica Woodahl and Nathalie Wolfram.

With funding from the Jane S. Heman Foundation, We Are Montana in the Classroom invited local teachers, principals and guidance counselors to nominate talented and motivated students to join the TEDxUMontana program.

According to We Are Montana in the Classroom Director Holly Truitt, the goal of the evening – as well as for the broader initiative – is to provide a fun and intellectually stimulating environment while at the same time instilling in students a sense of belonging in higher education.

“We are excited for all of these students to connect with faculty role models in higher education and to learn about the many different opportunities that await them in college and beyond,” Truitt said.

We Are Montana in the Classroom, a program of UM’s Office of Research and Creative Scholarship, places faculty members, graduate students and University professionals in K-12 classrooms to inspire students about higher education and career pathways.\*

For more information about TEDxUMontana, including tickets for the general public, visit <http://www.umt.edu/tedx/>.

\* This release was updated on Nov. 3, 2015, and contains an updated list of collaborators.

**Contact:** Holly Truitt, director of We Are Montana in the Classroom, 406-243-4872, [holly.truitt@umontana.edu](mailto:holly.truitt@umontana.edu).



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# Author of 'The Lentil Underground' to Speak at UM

February 13, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Author and Missoula native Liz Carlisle will present a reading and discussion of her book “The Lentil Underground: Renegade Farmers and the Future of Food in America” along with farmer David Oien at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, in the University of Montana North Underground Lecture Hall.

“The Lentil Underground” tells the story of Oien and a handful of other revolutionary farmers from Montana’s high plains who defied big agriculture by creating a sustainable farm-to-table food movement. During the presentation, Carlisle – a protégé of journalist Michael Pollan who earned her doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, last year – will read excerpts from “The Lentil Underground,” speak about her adventures in writing the book and answer questions. Oien will speak about the choices he and other farmers made to turn their farm economies around.

A book signing by Carlisle and a lentil tasting offered by The Good Food Store and University Dining Services will follow the reading and discussion. Sponsored by the UM Environmental Studies program, University Dining Services and The Good Food Store, the event is free and open to the public.

For more information about the event email Josh Slotnick, UM environmental studies lecturer, at [joshua.slotnick@mso.umt.edu](mailto:joshua.slotnick@mso.umt.edu).

**Contact:** Josh Slotnick, lecturer, UM Environmental Studies program, [joshua.slotnick@mso.umt.edu](mailto:joshua.slotnick@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM Seeks Public Comment on Draft Management Plan for Natural Areas

February 13, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana is seeking public comment on a draft management plan for the land UM owns on Mount Sentinel and at Fort Missoula.

It is the first management plan for UM's natural areas, which total more than 650 acres between the two locations. It covers grassland and forest stewardship, invasive plant management, trail maintenance and social/safety issues. UM natural areas specialist Marilyn Marler says the plan addresses important issues at both sites while supporting the goals of managing the lands for education, research, conservation and recreation.

The plan is available online at <http://cas.umt.edu/umnaturalareas/documents/um-natural-areas-management-plan-feb2015.pdf>. Public comment will be accepted through April 1.

**Contact:** Marilyn Marler, UM natural areas specialist, 406-544-7189, [marilyn.marler@umontana.edu](mailto:marilyn.marler@umontana.edu).



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# UM President to Deliver Mid-Year Update Feb. 18

February 13, 2015

**MISSOULA** – University of Montana President Royce Engstrom will deliver his Mid-Year Update at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, in the University Center Theater.

Engstrom will offer updates on University initiatives, challenges, accomplishments and finances. Questions will be taken from the audience on these and other topics.

The event, which is scheduled from 4 to 5:30 p.m., is free and open to the public, and faculty, staff, students and community members are encouraged to attend.

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

**Contact:** Rebecca Power, assistant to the UM president, 406-243-2311, [rebecca.power@mso.umt.edu](mailto:rebecca.power@mso.umt.edu).



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# Noted Neuroscientist, UM Dean to Speak on How Brain 'Sees' Art

February 12, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Christopher Comer, dean of University of Montana's College of Humanities and Sciences and professor of biology and neuroscience, will present a talk for the Montana Museum of Art & Culture on how the human brain interprets visual art.

His presentation "A View of Art Through Your Brain" takes place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center's Montana Theatre.

Comer's research focuses on sensory-motor integration, or how the brain receives and interprets signals and translates them into behaviors or movement. This presentation on visual art is an extension of an interdisciplinary program he leads in Ireland, during the summer titled "Brain, Mind and the Literary Imagination."

Comer earned a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, was a postdoctoral researcher at Cornell University, and a faculty member of the University of Illinois at Chicago. He also served for two years at the National Science Foundation as director of the Behavioral Neuroscience Program. He has taught principally in the areas of cellular neuroscience and animal behavior.

This is the second in a series of exciting programs centered on the exhibition "Art of the State: Celebrating 120 Years of the MMAC Permanent Collection" on display through May 23, 2015 in the Paxson and Meloy galleries of the PAR/TV Center. The exhibition and a first-ever handbook of the collection celebrate the 120th anniversary of the MMAC Permanent Collection. The collection now boasts nearly 11,000 objects.

A full schedule of other programs planned throughout the exhibition can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1Acym1J>.

The Montana Museum of Art & Culture is committed to making its Permanent Collection not only an important resource for UM but also for the people of the state and region.

MMAC's academic year gallery hours are noon-3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, and noon-6 p.m. Thursday and Friday. The museum is open to the public with a suggested \$5 donation. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

**Contact:** Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, [barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu](mailto:barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu); Brandon Reintjes, MMAC curator of art, [brandon.reintjes@mso.umt.edu](mailto:brandon.reintjes@mso.umt.edu).



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## UM News

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# Curry Health Center Wellness Partners with UC Market to increase UM's Healthy Choices

February 11, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana's Curry Health Center Wellness put its stamp on the University Center Market earlier this month.

Curry staff launched the Optimal Bear Approved campaign, which highlights healthy food and beverage choices through tags and witty descriptions at the UC Market.

"The Optimal Bear Approved campaign helps students to easily identify tasty, healthy options that they can feel good about eating," Director of Wellness Linda Green said.

Optimal Bear is a free, six-week, peer-based coaching program offered by UM's Curry Health Center. Students can enroll and work one-on-one with an Optimal Bear coach on stress, sleep, exercise or other challenging areas of life.

Past program participants shared a common struggle: they had trouble identifying healthier options for snacking and lunches on campus. Curry Health Center Wellness decided to implement a new program to highlight healthy choices in the UC Market, modeled after a successful collaboration between Whole Foods and a popular health food blog.

"The Market benefits from having Optimal Bear Approved products because both our employees and our customers can choose healthier food to give them longer-lasting energy through rough school days," UC Market staff member Tori VandeLinde said. "As a college student, sometimes it's hard to see that a piece of fruit and a packet of almond butter will provide more energy than the quick jolt from a candy bar. The Optimal Bear Approved program serves as a guide and a gentle reminder to members of the University of Montana community to give our bodies the food they need to fuel our busy lives."

Curry Health Center Wellness understands the challenges students face in selecting healthy food with a limited amount of time and money. The Optimal Bear Approved campaign highlights those healthy options to make the selection easier and UM students' bodies healthier.

The Optimal Bear Approved guidelines are: all natural and sometimes organic, no artificial color, limited added sugar and real-food ingredients.

For more information about this campaign call Curry Health Center Program Coordinator Kayli Julius at 406-243-6719 or email [kayli.julius@mso.umt.edu](mailto:kayli.julius@mso.umt.edu).

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**Contact:** Kayli Julius, Curry Health Center program coordinator, 406-243-6719, [kayli.julius@mso.umt.edu](mailto:kayli.julius@mso.umt.edu).



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# SpectrUM Releases Summer Camp Schedule

February 11, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Has your child ever dreamed of exploring outer space or building a LEGO robot? Are they curious what it's like to be a veterinarian, a computer programmer or a pirate? This summer, spectrUM Discovery Area has camps for all of Missoula's budding scientists, entrepreneurs and visionaries.

SpectrUM hosts its summer camps, which range from two to five days, between June 15 and Aug. 21. Camps are customized by age group, from 3 to 14 years old. Returning favorite summer camps include Aquatic Robotics, Crime Scene Investigation, 3D Printing and Explosive Chemistry. This summer, spectrUM also will premiere eight new camps, including Little Explorers, Rocket Science, Energy Explorers and BioDesign Engineers.

For a sneak peek at spectrUM's summer camps, children ages 6-7 and 8-10 can enroll in spectrUM's upcoming No-School Camp on Feb. 16. At Animal Wonders: Zookeeper Science, young zookeepers will examine animal X-rays, explore animal behavior and get to know some unique animal guests from Animal Wonders. This camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and costs \$50, with a 10-percent discount for siblings and spectrUM members.

Tuition for summer camps ranges from \$50 to \$220 with a 10-percent discount for siblings and spectrUM members.

Need-based scholarships are available through spectrUM's Science for All Scholarship Fund.

Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula. Annually, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans through in-museum and mobile partnering.

National sponsors include SciGirls, NISE Network, the Western Montana Area Health Education Center and the Noyce Foundation. SpectrUM is supported by an array of funding sources, including the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has provided the gift of science to more than 9,589 Montana children.

The public can visit spectrUM Discovery Area at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula. Public hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs \$3.50 per person.

For more information or to book a school visit, call spectrUM STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-728-7868 or visit <http://www.spectrum.umt.edu>.

###

**Contact:** Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-728-7836, [jessie.herbert@umontana.edu](mailto:jessie.herbert@umontana.edu).



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# SpectrUM Discovery Area to Host Brain Bee Competition at UM

February 11, 2015

The Big Sky Brain Project and the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area will host western Montana's first Brain Bee competition on Saturday, Feb. 21, in the Skaggs Building on the UM campus. The Brain Bee is a competitive Q-and-A event that allows area high school students to test their knowledge about the most complex organ in the body.

The first-place prize is a scholarship to compete at the U.S. National Brain Bee held at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, the weekend of March 20-22.

"Within a week of putting out the flyer, we had a number of students sign up from the Missoula and Bitterroot valleys, which was really exciting," said Amanda Duley, spectrUM brain lab manager and Brain Bee event organizer. "I've also had teachers and parents asking about this unique STEM experience, so it is apparent that we are filling a need. We hope to be able to expand our reach in the upcoming years."

A total of 22 students from Florence, Lolo, Hamilton, Corvallis and Missoula are currently registered for the event. Registered participants are invited to attend free brain training workshops led by UM neuroscientists. The

trainings include neuroanatomy laboratories using real brains, neurohistology with microscopes, brain imaging identification and a mock Brain Bee training for the live competition.

To learn more about the Brain Bee and the Big Sky Brain Project, visit <http://spectrum.umt.edu/exhibits/BrainBee/default.php> or call Duley at 406-728-7836.

The Big Sky Brain Project and spectrUM also are seeking sponsors for the event, which is free to participants. Sponsors will be recognized in Brain Bee press and promotional materials, on the spectrUM website, and on a recognition placard placed in spectrUM's downtown location before the event and for several months after. Interested sponsors can call 406-728-7836 or visit <http://spectrum.umt.edu/exhibits/BrainBee/sponsor.php> to make a pledge.

The International Brain Bee, founded by Dr. Norbert Myslinski, is a program of Mankind for International Neuroscience Development Inc. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Big Sky Brain Project is a partnership between the Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience and the spectrUM Discovery Area. It strives to increase neuroscience literacy in Montana's K-12 students while putting the next generation of Montanans on the fast track to careers in STEM fields.

Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, the spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula. Annually, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans through in-museum and mobile programming.

SpectrUM's national sponsors and partners include SciGirls, NISE Network, Western Montana Area Health Education Center and the Noyce Foundation. SpectrUM is supported by an array of funding sources, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has given the gift of science to more than 9,500 Montana children.

The spectrUM Discovery Area Downtown, located at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula, is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$3.50 per person. Teachers or schools interested in booking a field trip to the spectrUM museum or arranging a stop on spectrUM's mobile tour can call 406-728-7836.

###

**Contact:** Amanda Duley, brain lab manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-728-7836, [amanda.duley@umontana.edu](mailto:amanda.duley@umontana.edu).

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# UM Students Feature Montana Centenarians on Upcoming MontanaPBS Show

February 11, 2015

**MISSOULA** – At last count, Montana boasted 175 centenarians. Four of those remarkable people and their stories will be featured in the upcoming episode of “Montana Journal: 100 & Counting” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12; 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 15; and 1 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, on MontanaPBS.

The show introduces viewers to a 104-year-old **Billings** man who maintains his regular exercise routine and a 100-year-old **Great Falls** woman who has overcome great adversity with her positive attitude. The program also will feature a 100-year-old **Livingston** man who left behind a lasting legacy in his hometown and a 103-year-old woman in Missoula who remains an important figure at the University of Montana.

This marks the 17th year UM School of Journalism students have produced the “Montana Journal” television series. The School of Journalism was founded in 1914 when Dean Arthur Stone pitched some surplus U.S. Army tents on the Oval.

For more information call UM School of Journalism Communication and Events Coordinator Julia Cummings at 406-243-4366 or email [julia.cummings@mso.umt.edu](mailto:julia.cummings@mso.umt.edu).

###

**Contact:** Julia Cummings, UM School of Journalism communication and events coordinator, 406-243-4366, [julia.cummings@mso.umt.edu](mailto:julia.cummings@mso.umt.edu).



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# SpectrUM's Brain Exhibit Travels to Hot Springs

February 11, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area will bring its popular “The Brain: A World Inside Your Head” exhibit to **Hot Springs** on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

A free family science night will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Hot Springs High School’s new gymnasium, where students will be able to share their knowledge with family, friends and community members.

Highlights of the exhibit include interactive science activities exploring the wonders of neuroscience, such as an EEG measurement station, a colossal brain and Mind Flex Duel – an activity through which visitors can move a ball using their brain waves.

“We travel hands-on science around the state, transforming gymnasiums and cafeterias into powerful science learning centers that help inspire Montana’s next generation of scientists, health care providers, engineers and visionaries,” said Holly Truitt, spectrUM director.

Since 2006, spectrUM has traveled exhibits and educators to 75 schools and public libraries in 29 counties,

including all seven American Indian reservations in Montana. In total, spectrUM has served 44,985 people, of whom 30 percent are Native American and 75 percent live in rural communities. This tour stop is powered by the Hot Springs Parent Teacher Organization and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in the heart of downtown Missoula. Annually, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans through in-museum and mobile partnering.

National sponsors include SciGirls, NISE Network, the Western Montana Area Health Education Center and the Noyce Foundation. SpectrUM is supported by an array of funding sources, including the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has provided the gift of science to more than 9,589 Montana children.

The public can visit spectrUM Discovery Area at 218 E. Front St. in Missoula. Public hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs \$3.50 per person.

For more information or to book a school visit, call spectrUM STEM Education Program Manager Jessie Herbert at 406-728-7868 or visit <http://www.spectrum.umt.edu>.

###

**Contact:** Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-728-7836, [jessie.herbert@umontana.edu](mailto:jessie.herbert@umontana.edu).



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# UM Study Finds Air Pollution Affects Short-Term Memory, IQ and Brain Metabolic Ratios

February 11, 2015

**MISSOULA** – City smog lowers children’s IQ. This is among findings from a recent University of Montana study that found children living in cities with significant air pollution are at an increased risk for detrimental impacts to the brain, including short-term memory loss and lower IQ.

Findings by UM Professor Dr. Lilian Calderón-Garcidueñas, MA, MD, Ph.D., and her team of researchers reveal that children with lifetime exposures to concentrations of air pollutants above the current U.S. standards, including fine particulate matter, are at an increased risk for brain inflammation and neurodegenerative changes, including Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

Calderón-Garcidueñas’ findings are detailed in a paper titled “Decreases in Short-Term Memory, IQ and Altered Brain Metabolic Ratios in Urban Apolipoprotein ε4 Children Exposed to Air Pollution,” which can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1ywtPqE>.

The study found that clinically healthy children who live in a polluted environment and who also carry a gene – the apolipoprotein  $\epsilon 4$  allele, already known to increase a person's risk of developing Alzheimer's disease – demonstrated compromised cognitive responses when compared with children carrying a gene with apolipoprotein  $\epsilon 3$  allele.

Metropolitan Mexico City is an example of extreme urban growth and serious environmental pollution, where 8 million children are involuntarily exposed to harmful concentrations of fine particulate matter in the air every day beginning at conception.

The study matched two groups of children living in Mexico City by multiple variables, including age, gender, socioeconomic status and education, among others. They then compared children carrying the  $\epsilon 4$  allele to children carrying the  $\epsilon 3$  allele and found that those with the  $\epsilon 4$  allele had three significant alterations. They had short-term memory shortfalls, an IQ that while within the normal limits measured 10 points less, and changes in key metabolites in the brain that mirror those of people with Alzheimer's disease.

"The results add to growing data suggesting  $\epsilon 4$  carriers could have a higher risk of developing early Alzheimer's disease if they reside in a polluted urban environment," Calderón-Garcidueñas said.

She said the study also raises concerns about important educational issues. Since Mexico City children mostly attend underprovided public schools, children do not build cognitive reserves that serve as a defense to pollution impacts.

"A IQ difference of 10 points will likely have a negative impact on academic and social issues, including bullying and teen delinquency," she said.

The authors argue that sustained exposures to urban air pollution result in cognitive underperformance and metabolic brain changes that could lead to an acceleration of neurodegenerative changes.

Air pollution is a serious public health issue, and exposures to concentrations of air pollutants at or above the current standards have been linked to neuroinflammation and neuropathology. In the U.S. alone, 200 million people live in areas where pollutants such as ozone and fine particulate matter exceed the standards.

There are significant associations between exposures to particulate matter and increased mortality due to stroke, cardiovascular disease and respiratory events. The problem in children living in megacities like Mexico City is much worse.

"There is an urgent need to have a broader focus on APOE  $\epsilon 4$  and air pollution interactions impacting children's brains, and their responses could provide new avenues toward the unprecedented opportunity for Alzheimer's disease prevention," Calderón-Garcidueñas said. "We have a 50-year window of opportunity between the time urban children experience the detrimental effects we are describing here and when they will present with mild cognitive impairment and dementia. We need support for studying the current pediatric clinical and imaging evidence in highly exposed urban children. Our efforts should be aimed to identify and mitigate environmental factors influencing Alzheimer's disease."

The Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, found online at <http://www.j-alz.com>, is an international multidisciplinary journal



to facilitate progress in understanding the etiology, pathogenesis, epidemiology, genetics, behavior, treatment and psychology of Alzheimer's disease.

For more information on the study, call Calderón-Garcidueñas at 406-243-4785 or email

[lilian.calderon@mso.umt.edu](mailto:lilian.calderon@mso.umt.edu).

**Contact:** Dr. Lilian Calderón-Garcidueñas, UM Center for Structural and Functional Neurosciences, 406-243-4785,

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# UM to Host Indigenous Studies Summer Institute

February 10, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana will host a National Endowment for the Humanities 2015 Summer Institute titled “Indigenous Literary Studies through Global Conversations” June 22-July 17. The tuition-free, four-week professional development institute will provide high school teachers and advanced graduate students with increased knowledge of indigenous peoples from those peoples’ perspectives.

For application guidelines visit the institute’s website at <http://indigenouslit.org>. Applications are due no later than March 2.

The institute seeks to engage participants in cross-cultural comparisons between and among indigenous peoples with further emphasis on civil discourse between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

Institute participants will study the Salish people of Montana through their expressive cultures – literatures, oral traditions and film – and broaden their intellectual inquiry to include the Kiowas of Oklahoma, Samis of northern Norway and Alaska Natives.

The institute was made possible through a \$190,119 grant from the NEH awarded to Kathryn Shanley of the Native American Studies department and Phyllis Ngai of the Department of Communication Studies. It is designed to respond to the NEH's Bridging Cultures initiative. Participants will study the historical, cultural and social contexts for the respective indigenous literatures through a framework provided by Montana's constitutionally mandated Indian Education for All initiative.

For more information about the institute email Ngai or Shanley at [Indigenous.Lit@umontana.edu](mailto:Indigenous.Lit@umontana.edu) or call 406-243-5832.

**Contact:** Phyllis Ngai, adjunct associate professor, UM Department of Communication Studies, 406-721-4691, [phyllis.ngai@umontana.edu](mailto:phyllis.ngai@umontana.edu); Kathryn Shanley, professor, Native American Studies department, 406-243-5832, [kathryn.shanley@umontana.edu](mailto:kathryn.shanley@umontana.edu).



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# Super Grizzly Dip to Make a Splash at UM on Feb. 20

February 10, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Participants of the 16th Annual Super Grizzly Dip will plunge into an icy pool of water in the name of charity at the University of Montana Oval on Friday, Feb. 20.

Registration check-in begins at 10:30 a.m. on the Oval. The Pre-Plunge Party begins at 11:30 a.m., and the plunges start at noon.

The event, which is open to the public, offers a chance to raise funds to benefit local Special Olympics athletes, many of whom will participate in the plunge. Those who choose not to plunge still can participate by registering as a “chicken.” They still raise pledges and receive incentives like a regular plunger, without getting wet.

To register or for more information, visit <http://www.somt.org/events.plunge>. Participants are encouraged to collect tax-deductible pledges from friends and family. There is a \$100 donation minimum per plunger. UM students with a valid Griz Card can plunge for \$50. Checks should be made to Special Olympics.

The Super Grizzly Dip is primarily organized, promoted and conducted by law enforcement through their affiliation

with Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Montana. Neptune Aviation Services is the premier sponsor for the event. Year-round sponsors include the Montana Police Protective Association as the Premier Law Enforcement Sponsor and Town Pump as the Premium Mission Sponsor. Their partnership has ensured the success of the plunge for many years.

More than 2,000 athletes from 65 Montana communities participate in local, area and state sports competitions that train athletes for life and build communities of acceptance, respect and inclusion. As a volunteer-driven movement, nearly 4,000 Montanans help organize and host local-, area- and state-level competitions and other year-round program services. Five Valleys Area Special Olympics takes a particular interest in providing opportunities to these athletes on a local level.

As a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit organization, Special Olympics Montana is funded primarily through the generosity of individuals, organizations and businesses across the state. Public support is essential. For more information call Super Grizzly Dip co-chair Truman Tolson at 406-552-6289.

**Contact:** Jennifer Zellmer-Cuaresma, adviser, UM Athletic Academic Services, 406-243-2600, [jennifer.zellmerc@mso.umt.edu](mailto:jennifer.zellmerc@mso.umt.edu).



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# More Balanced, Slower Growth Ahead for Montana's Economy

February 10, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Montana has witnessed something of an economic miracle in the eastern third of the state because of the boom in the Bakken, with rural areas surpassing growth in urban areas during the past five years, according to a University of Montana economist.

The sudden decline in crude oil prices may bring growth rates into closer balance, said Patrick Barkey, director of UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

Barkey and Paul Polzin, BBER director emeritus, will present the outlook for the national, state and local economies at the bureau's 40th Annual Economic Outlook Seminar being held in nine cities throughout Montana.

Polzin said the most recent federal data report accelerating growth in the Flathead County economy.

"The construction industry looks like it is on the mend, manufacturing is strong and Kalispell continues to evolve into a regional center," Polzin said. Nonresident travel is now the largest basic industry in the Flathead economy.

The forecasts are for growth to average about 3 percent from 2015 to 2018.

This year's seminar, "The New American Energy Revolution: Reshaping Montana," will focus on the changing energy sector and feature keynote speaker Bill Whitsitt, a retired executive vice president at Devon Energy.

This is the 40th year BBER will travel around the state to deliver half-day seminars. In addition to economic forecasts, Barkey, Polzin and other economists from the Montana University System will examine the prospects for the state's major industries.

The **Kalispell** seminar will be held on Friday, Feb. 13, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Each seminar runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and includes lunch. For additional information or to register for a seminar, call 406-243-5113 or visit <http://www.bber.umt.edu>.

Following is the schedule for the other seminar cities:

- **Sidney** – Tuesday, March 17, USDA/ARS
- **Miles City** – Wednesday, March 18, Bureau of Land Management

BBER is a research center that has provided information about Montana's state and local economies for more than 50 years. For more information visit <http://www.bber.umt.edu>.

**Contact:** Rob Van Driest, interim marketing director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, [rob.vandriest@business.umt.edu](mailto:rob.vandriest@business.umt.edu).



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# Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Analyst to Present President's Lecture at UM

February 10, 2015

**MISSOULA** – A commentator on the struggle between Islam and the West will deliver the next installment of the 2014-15 President's Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

Avishai Margalit, a Stanford University visiting professor of law and philosophy, will present the Henry Bugbee Annual Lecture on Philosophy, "The Arab Spring and the Israeli Spring," at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, in the University Center Ballroom.

Margalit also will lead a seminar earlier that day, titled "Betrayal: Political and Personal," from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. The lecture and seminar are free and open to the public.

Margalit received his doctorate degree from Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1970 before teaching there for more than three decades. He also served as the Rockefeller Fellow at the Princeton University Center for Human Values from 1995 to 1996, the Bertelsman Professor at Oxford University from 2001 to 2002 and the Tanner Lecturer at Stanford University in 2005. Margalit also held the George F. Kennan professorship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, from 2006 to 2011.

He retired from Hebrew University in 2006, but continues to teach and lecture. Margalit's seminar at Stanford, "Betrayal and Loyalty, Treason and Trust," draws on a variety of philosophical, historical and literary works.

In addition to Margalit's work as a philosophy teacher, he provides analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the broader struggle between Islam and the West, for "The New York Review of Books" and other publications. He has written several books on the topic.

Margalit's awards include the Spinoza Lens Award, given by the International Spinoza Foundation in Amsterdam in 2001; the EMET Prize for civic education, awarded by the Israeli prime minister in 2007; and the Israel Prize in Philosophy, the State of Israel's highest honor, awarded in 2010. The Israel Prize committee described Margalit as "one of the most important philosophers in the State of Israel and one of the most valued in the world today."

The President's Lecture Series at UM consists of 10 talks on vital topics by distinguished guest speakers throughout the academic year. For more information on the series, visit <http://umt.edu/president/events/lectures/> or call UM history Professor Richard Drake at 406-243-2981.

**Contact:** Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer, 406-243-2981, [richard.drake@umontana.edu](mailto:richard.drake@umontana.edu).



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# UM to Host Screening and Discussion of 'Race to Nowhere'

February 09, 2015

**MISSOULA** – A screening and discussion of the film “Race to Nowhere: The Dark Side of America’s Achievement Culture” will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in the University Center Theater on the University of Montana campus. The event is free and open to the public.

“Race to Nowhere” features heartbreaking stories from students across the country who have been pushed to the brink by over-scheduling, over-testing and the relentless pressure to achieve. Through the testimony of educators, parents and education experts, the film reveals an education system in which cheating has become commonplace; students have become disengaged; stress-related illness, depression and burnout are rampant; and young people enter college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired.

Hosted by Phi Delta Kappa and UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, “Race to Nowhere” challenges current thinking about the way American society prepares school-age children for success. The film – named by TakePart.com as one of “10 Education Documentaries You Don’t Want to Miss” – aims to bring communities together to spark dialogue and galvanize change in America’s schools.

Shown nationwide and internationally in more than 7,000 schools, universities, cinemas, hospitals, corporations and community centers, "Race to Nowhere" has become the centerpiece of a nationwide grassroots movement for the transformation of education.

For more information about the screening and discussion, email Assistant Professor Lucila Rudge at [lucila.rudge@mso.umt.edu](mailto:lucila.rudge@mso.umt.edu) or call 406-243-5415.

###

**Contact:** Lucila Rudge, assistant professor, UM Department of Curriculum and Instruction, 406-243-5415, [lucila.rudge@mso.umt.edu](mailto:lucila.rudge@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM's Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity Wins Leadership Award

February 09, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The Montana Alpha chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at the University of Montana recently was awarded the prestigious Frank J. Ruck Leadership Excellence Award at the Carlson Leadership Academy, held Jan. 30-Feb. 1 in Orange County, California.

The Frank J. Ruck Leadership Excellence Award is presented to only 10 chapters across the nation, recognizing them for outstanding campus and community leadership and for making significant positive changes to the campus community as a whole. The award is named for Frank J. Ruck Jr., former grand president, Order of the Golden Heart recipient and former president of the North American Interfraternity Conference.

SigEp embodies the “Balanced Man” ideal, encompassing “Sound Mind and Sound Body” as well as the values “Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love.” Founded at UM in 1918, the Montana Alpha chapter of SigEp is known for its philanthropic participation with the Child Development Center, including the biennial “Run to Bozeman” event to raise money for the center.

**Contact:** Chance Carter, former president of Montana Alpha chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, 515-371-6799,

[chance.carter.w@gmail.com](mailto:chance.carter.w@gmail.com).



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# UM Brain Disorder Research Moves Toward Clinical Testing

February 09, 2015

**MISSOULA** – University of Montana is one step closer to turning a discovery into a drug.

Promentis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. recently announced it will enter an exclusive agreement with UM to commercialize a discovery made by a team of UM faculty scientists that has the potential to treat brain cancer and possibly other disorders of the central nervous system.

The team, which is based in the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences within UM's Skagg's School of Pharmacy, includes professors Richard Bridges, Sarjubhai Patel, Nicholas Natale, Philippe Diaz and Charles Thompson.

Their studies primarily focus on transporter proteins found on cells in the brain and spinal cord. Bridges likens transporters to turnstiles, controlling which small molecules get in and out of the different cells. His team works to discover molecules that regulate activity of these transporters. In short, they seek to understand how alterations in transporters may contribute to central nervous system diseases and to develop drugs that will compensate for such changes.

The UM team's patented research shows promise for treating various disorders of the brain. Equipped with expertise and resources not available at UM, Promentis Pharmaceuticals will advance the patented research to a clinical setting.

"Universities are great places for discovering innovations or breakthroughs that change our lives," UM Director of Technology Transfer Joe Fanguy said. "We aren't always equipped to transform those discoveries into real-world applications. In this case, UM has entered an exclusive agreement to take the research to the next level – developing novel drugs for the marketplace."

This project represents one of several that have been initiated within the UM's Center for Structural & Functional Neuroscience and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy with support from the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology.

The goal of the CSFN/MBRCT is to facilitate the commercialization of research discoveries made on campus, particularly related to drugs and diagnostics for the treatment of neurodegenerative disorders and neurological diseases.

"It was great news to hear about the agreement between UM and Promentis," MBRCT Executive Director Dave Desch said. "The board began supporting projects with UM's Center for Structural & Functional Neuroscience more than a dozen years ago knowing that commercialization of any technologies developed would be years down the road. The agreement is just another example of the series of successes generated by Dr. Bridges and his team."

Through the funding of pilot projects, MBRCT's support allows UM faculty to generate preliminary results and file provisional patents critical to either establishing a private-sector partnership or starting their own spin-off company.

"These projects provide a pathway to protect intellectual property, collaborate with companies, advance our discoveries into patient care and have an economic impact in a way that we could never do by ourselves," Bridges said. "The added value, of course, is that students are involved every step of the way."

"This agreement represents a significant milestone in what has been a very productive, ongoing collaboration between Promentis and the University of Montana," Promentis Pharmaceuticals CEO and President Chad Beyer said. "This arrangement underscores our passion for developing novel drugs and our commitment to bring them closer to patients."

Promentis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a privately held pharmaceutical company focused on developing compounds aimed at modifying brain chemistry for the treatment of schizophrenia and other devastating central nervous system disorders.

"We look forward to continuing our longstanding relationship with a world-class team of medicinal chemists and molecular pharmacologists within UM's Skaggs School of Pharmacy," Beyer said.

###

**Contact:** Richard Bridges, UM Regents Professor, Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, UM



College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, 406-243-4972, [richard.bridges@umontana.edu](mailto:richard.bridges@umontana.edu) .



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# TEDxUMontana Speakers to Explore Theme of Language

February 06, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Local, regional and national speakers will address the theme of language during the University of Montana’s TEDxUMontana event on Friday, Feb. 20, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre. The event will run from 4 to 9 p.m.

Speakers will include Missoula Mayor John Engen, Salish and Pend d’Oreille language school Executive Director April Charlo, climate change communicator Susan Joy Hassol, journalist Clay Scott, Missoula Symphony conductor Darko Butorac, Raptors of the Rockies director Kate Davis, former Montana Poet Laureate Sheryl Noethe, stop-action filmmaker Andy Smetanka, three-time State AA speech and debate champion Erin Johnson, and Drum Brothers member and solo recording artist Matthew Marsolek. Video and live speakers will combine to spark deep discussion and connection with the audience during the event.

Tickets cost \$40 for general admission and \$20 for students. Dinner and light refreshments are included. The event will not be available as a live webcast, and tickets are limited. To purchase tickets, go to <http://www.umt.edu/tedx>.

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TED has created TEDx, a program of local, self-organized events that bring

people together to share a TED-like experience. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events, such as UM's, are self-organized.

For more information call 406-243-2858.

**Contact:** Jace Laakso, TEDxUMontana director, 406-243-2858, [jace.laakso@umontana.edu](mailto:jace.laakso@umontana.edu).



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# Missoula College Students Receive Welding Scholarships

February 05, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Two Missoula College University of Montana welding students recently have been selected to receive \$1,000 Gianforte Foundation scholarships for spring semester 2015. Ethan Kliewer of **Glasgow** and David Rhodes of **Missoula**, both second-semester industrial technology education students, were awarded the scholarships to help fund tuition and fees.

The Gianforte Foundation announced in December 2014 that the \$500,000 scholarship donation would support students enrolled in manufacturing programs at two-year colleges in Montana. Greg Gianforte said the scholarship donation is about creating opportunities for Montana students so they may receive training to meet the demand for well-trained workers in Montana industry.

Scholarship recipients at two-year colleges across Montana were chosen based on academic success, full-time status, financial need, and educational and career goals. Rhodes, a military veteran, received additional consideration for the scholarship because of his veteran status.

The scholarships will cover up to 50 percent of tuition for Rhodes and Kliewer and will be offered for four semesters

or until they complete their programs.

**Contact:** Mickey Lyngholm, workforce navigator, Missoula College, 406-243-7879, [mickey.lyngholm@mso.umt.edu](mailto:mickey.lyngholm@mso.umt.edu).



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# Spring Volunteer Fair Comes to UM Feb. 10-11

February 05, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana Office for Civic Engagement and Volunteers in Action will host the biannual Spring Volunteer Fair on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 10-11. The fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Center Atrium both days.

Students and community members can learn about numerous volunteer opportunities available in the Missoula area from nearly 30 community agencies, which will have the chance to recruit new volunteers.

Every year at the beginning of the fall and spring semester, UM's Office for Civic Engagement and Volunteers in Action coordinate a volunteer fair to connect interested students, UM faculty and staff, and other members of the community with volunteer opportunities in the Missoula area. The fair helps nonprofit agencies promote their activities and recruit new members in order to meet community-identified needs.

The Office for Civic Engagement also will provide information about several of its programs during the fair.

The Office for Civic Engagement is a department of the Davidson Honors College. It was founded as Volunteer

Action Services at UM in 1992 and serves as the University's primary agent of community activism and civic responsibility.

**Contact:** Shelby Stormer, volunteer and events coordinator, UM Office of Civic Engagement, 406-243-5531, [shelby.stormer@umontana.edu](mailto:shelby.stormer@umontana.edu).



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# UM Journalism School Event Combines Rock, Freedom

February 05, 2015

**MISSOULA** – American history will meet rock 'n' roll during “Freedom Sings,” a critically acclaimed multimedia experience coming to the University of Montana on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. in UM's Dennison Theatre. “Freedom Sings” is sponsored by the UM School of Journalism as part of its centennial celebrating 100 years of excellence. It is free and open to the public, and all ages are welcome.

“Freedom Sings” is a First Amendment Center program that has toured for more than 10 years. The event is the entertaining, engaging and inspiring story of free speech in America told through rock, pop, hip-hop and country music.

The program features music that has sounded a call for social change, inviting its audiences to experience the First Amendment in an entirely new way. Featuring an all-star cast of Grammy Award-winning musicians, “Freedom Sings” revisits turning points in contemporary history with performances of songs made famous by artists such as the Beatles, Black Eyed Peas, Miranda Lambert, Beyoncé and many more.



Live musical performances paired with a riveting narration make “Freedom Sings” an unparalleled entertainment experience. For photos, interviews or more information, call Mati Tressler of UM Productions at 406-243-4719 or email [marketing@umproductions.org](mailto:marketing@umproductions.org). Information also is available online at <http://www.freedomsings.info>.

**Contact:** Mati Tressler, UM Productions marketing coordinator, 406-243-4719, [marketing@umproductions.org](mailto:marketing@umproductions.org).



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# UM President Named to National Board of Directors

February 05, 2015

**MISSOULA** – University of Montana President Royce Engstrom was named to the board of directors of the Association of American Colleges and Universities during its recent annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

“It’s a great honor to serve on a national board of an organization committed to improving undergraduate education that comprises 1,300 member institutions,” Engstrom said. “I look forward to working with some of the best educators in higher education in the country.

“AAC&U thinks deeply about a 21st century education and is well-aligned with UM’s heritage as an institution grounded in the liberal arts and sciences.”

A complete listing of the AAC&U board of directors is online at <http://www.aacu.org/about/board>.

Engstrom is UM’s 17th president. He assumed his duties Oct. 15, 2010, after serving as provost and vice president for academic affairs for three years. He came to Missoula in 2007 from the University of South Dakota, where he served as professor and chair of chemistry, vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School, and

provost and vice president for academic affairs.

As an educator and administrator, Engstrom has always focused on student engagement in and beyond the classroom. He was president of the national Council on Undergraduate Research and is an active proponent of UM's Global Leadership Initiative.

Founded in 1915, AAC&U is the leading national association concerned with the quality, vitality and public standing of undergraduate liberal education. It functions as a catalyst and facilitator, forging links among presidents, administrators and faculty members who are engaged in institutional and curricular planning. Its mission is to reinforce the collective commitment to an education focused on outcomes critical for today's students, and to help individual institutions keep the quality of student learning at the core of their work as they evolve to meet new economic and social challenges. More information is online at <http://www.aacu.org>.

**Contact:** UM President's Office, 406-243-2311, .



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# Public Invited to UM's Charter Day Events Feb. 12

February 05, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana will celebrate its 122nd birthday on Thursday, Feb. 12, with a noon-hour party and an evening Charter Day awards ceremony and reception.

The birthday festivities are held each year to celebrate the anniversary of UM's chartering by the Montana Legislature in 1893 and to honor the University and its dedication to excellence. All events are free and open to the public.

The noon-hour birthday party, which will feature free cupcakes and entertainment, will be held in the University Center Atrium. The annual Charter Day awards ceremony, which begins at 5:30 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom, will recognize exemplary campus and community members.

Missoula Mayor John Engen will attend the evening awards ceremony to present an official proclamation of University of Montana Day. A reception will follow the ceremony.

UM Provost Perry Brown will preside over the presentation of 2015 Charter Day awards to the following recipients:

**Montana Alumni Award: Don C. Cowles III** is owner of Wild West Shirt Company. This award recognizes a former UM student for extraordinary service to the University. Cowles graduated from UM in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and opened a small T-shirt shop in West Yellowstone in 1967. His wholesale business now includes two printing facilities and two retail shirt stores. He is a member of the UM President's Advisory Council and the National Advisory Board for Grizzly Athletics.

**Associated Students of UM Student Service Award: Mike Hopkins** is a fourth-generation Montanan studying public administration at UM. This award recognizes distinguished service and achievement. Hopkins is the lobbyist for ASUM and has served the organization in various roles, including senator, business manager and student resolution officer.

**Robert T. Pantzer Presidential Humanitarian Award: Stephen Kalm** is dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts and professor of music at UM. This award recognizes those who create a more humane learning environment at UM. Kalm has performed in numerous national and international venues and received a New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Award for his performance in Meredith Monk's opera "The Politics of Quiet."

**Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award: Deborah Doyle McWhinney** is CEO of Citigroup's global enterprise payments. This award recognizes extraordinary effort to foster an understanding of UM's needs and strengths throughout the community and the state. McWhinney is a C-level business leader and champion of financial services innovations. She has built a career in driving value for customers and investors globally.

**Tom Boone Town and Gown Award: Karen Ruth Adams** is associate professor of political science at UM. This award recognizes faculty members who foster a deeper understanding between the University and Missoula. Adams has served for 10 years as the faculty adviser to the Montana Model United Nations High School Conference and award-winning Traveling Team.

**Outstanding Volunteer Award: Wilena Old Person** (Yakama/Blackfeet) is program coordinator for the Native American Center of Excellence. This award recognizes the contribution of many hours of uncompensated time to UM to help meet the needs of the campus community. Old Person is co-adviser and volunteer for the Kyi-Yo Native American Student Association and has served as chair of the Missoula Indian Community as well as volunteer board member for the Missoula Indian Center.

**Outstanding Service to the External Community Award: Nancy Noel Marra** is the former director of field experiences for the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. This award recognizes exceptional service to the off-campus community and positive contributions to the overall mission of the University. Each year, the Office of Field Experiences collaborates with schools in the immediate area and across the globe to connect more than 1,000 teacher candidates with high-quality clinical placements.

**John Ruffatto Memorial Award: Shawn F. Clouse** is professor in the Department of Management Information Systems in the School of Business Administration. This award recognizes UM faculty who bring practical, applicable business principles into the classroom. Clouse teaches project management and integrated business simulation and has research publications on information privacy, website usability, utilizing technology for teaching and learning, and using technology for customer service.

**George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment: Ronald H. Wakimoto** is professor of forestry at UM. This award recognizes distinguished accomplishments that have brought significant recognition to UM at the regional and national levels. Wakimoto teaches academic courses in wildland fire management, fuel management, fire ecology and urban forestry, has served as a technical adviser to the National Fire Policy Review Team, and has conducted extensive fire training in the Kingdom of Bhutan.

**George M. Dennison Presidential Staff Award for Distinguished Accomplishment: Cary Shimek** is communication manager for University Relations at UM. This award recognizes distinguished accomplishment within the employee's work unit that brings excellence, merit, distinction or glory to UM. Shimek also serves as managing editor for UM research publications and the annual President's Report, while assisting with the Montanan magazine, the main UM homepage and University social media efforts.

For more information about Charter Day events, call Angela Weisenburger, UM Office of Alumni Relations on-campus events coordinator, at 406-243-6439 or email [angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu](mailto:angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu).

**Contact:** Angela Weisenburger, UM Office of Alumni Relations on-campus events coordinator, 406-243-6439, [angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu](mailto:angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu).



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# Montanan Magazine Claims Pair of Awards

February 04, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The Montanan, the magazine of the University of Montana, recently earned awards in competitions from two higher education organizations.

Montanan Editor-in-Chief John Heaney was recognized by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VIII with a Silver Award for his editorial short, titled “Coming Full Circle,” which appeared in the fall 2013 issue.

Heaney’s piece featured legendary UM alumna Emma Lommasson and an ornate serving platter she received as a wedding gift in 1940. Lommasson, now 103 years old, recently gifted the platter to Mary Engstrom, wife of UM President Royce Engstrom, who currently resides in the home where Lommasson was living when she originally received the platter. The whole story can be read here: <http://archive.umt.edu/montanan/f13/Artifacts.php>.

“Emma is a UM treasure,” Heaney said. “It was an absolute treat to visit with her and to be able to tell the story of the platter.”

The CASE District VIII Awards competition includes entries from more than 130 institutions across the northwest United States and western Canada.

The Montanan also won a Silver Award for general excellence in the 2015 Collegiate Advertising Awards competition in the "Magazine Series" category for issues released during 2014. The Collegiate Advertising Awards honor higher education organizations for excellence in communications, marketing, advertising and promotions of their institutions. This year's contest had more than 900 entries from across the U.S., representing educational facilities from small community colleges to large universities.

Produced by University Relations at UM, the Montanan is sent to more than 100,000 alumni, friends and readers with ties to the University. It is published three times per year and can be found online at <http://montanan.umt.edu/>.

**Contact:** John Heaney, Montanan magazine editor-in-chief, 406-243-2488, [john.heaney@umontana.edu](mailto:john.heaney@umontana.edu).



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# Mansfield Center Launches Spring 2015 Lecture Series

February 04, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The Mansfield Center at the University of Montana has announced its Spring 2015 Brown Bag Lecture Series for the community. The lectures reflect the center’s mission to promote an understanding of Asia, public affairs and ethics.

All sessions will be held from 12:10 to 1 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The lectures are free and open to the public. The schedule follows:

- **Wednesday, Feb. 18, University Center Room 333:** “Politics under China’s ‘New Mao:’ The Good, The Bad, and the Downright Ugly,” Terry Weidner, UM professor of Chinese politics.
- **Wednesday, March 11, Mansfield Library Room 450:** “Deep in the Delta: Studying Climate Change in Vietnam,” Nicky Phear, UM Climate Change Studies instructor and program coordinator, and Mara Menahan, UM study abroad student participant.
- **Tuesday, March 17, 4-5 p.m., Payne Family Native American Center Room 105:** “Sustainable Rural

Development in Cambodia: Participatory NGO Approaches and Student Internship Opportunities," Phyllis Ngai, adjunct associate professor, UM Department of Communication Studies.

- **Tuesday, March 24, 3-4 p.m., UC Room 326:** "JET to Japan! – Working in Japan with the Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program," Matthew Niemi, JET program coordinator, consulate general of Japan in Seattle.
- **Wednesday, April 15, UC Room 333:** "Peaceful Islam, or, Much Ado about ISIS," Abdelilah Bouasria, Arabic lead instructor, Defense Critical Language and Cultural Program at the UM Mansfield Center.

For more information and extended session descriptions, visit <http://umt.edu/mansfield/events/brownbaglectures> or call 406-243-2988.

**Contact:** Caitlin Sager, administrative assistant, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2965, [caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu](mailto:caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM Hosts Ceramic Artists Feb. 24 for Archie Bray Day

February 19, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Three ceramic artists from the Archie Bray Foundation in **Helena** will demonstrate their techniques and lecture on their work Tuesday, Feb. 24, during the annual Archie Bray Day at the University of Montana.

Events run from 10:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Artists Tom Jaszczak, Heesoo Lee, and John Souter will demonstrate their work from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30 to 4:45 p.m. in the Ceramics Studio of UM's Art Annex, located south of the Adams Center. A lecture and slide show of the artists' work will be held from 5:10 to 6:30 p.m. in Social Science Building Room 356.

Jaszczak received a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Art and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Bemidji State University. After graduating, he apprenticed at Mill Creek Pottery for a year and learned the process of wood firing. Among other grants, residencies and awards, he was the recipient of a Jerome Project Grant through the Northern Clay Center and a Minnesota Arts Board Grant. He has been an assistant to Tara Wilson of Helena and a summer resident at The Armory Art Center in Florida and the Archie Bray Foundation. Most recently he has been focusing on developing a red earthenware soda fired body of work.

Lee was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea, and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Art from Ehwa University. After apprenticing with Julia Kirillova in Berkeley, California, Heesoo began her full time studio practice in Maui, Hawaii, then Durango, Colorado. Lee creates her works in porcelain and white stoneware. She paints landscape and floral imagery on her pieces with underglazes, slips and glazes. By layering the painting materials, she is able to achieve a level of depth, color and realism rarely found in high-fired ceramic painting.

Souter is an artist originally from Scranton, Pennsylvania. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in crafts from the University of the Arts in 2012. Souter has been a recipient of the Windgate Charitable Foundation Fellowship, and is currently the Taunt Fellow at the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts. The objects he creates have been published in American Craft, Ceramic Review and Ceramics Monthly.

Archie Bray Day is sponsored by the Jim and Jane Dew Visiting Artist Fund and the UM School of Art. For more information call UM art Professor Beth Lo at 406-243-5893 or the School of Art office at 406-243-4181.

**Contact:** Beth Lo, UM art professor, 406-243-5893, [elizabeth.Lo@mso.umt.edu](mailto:elizabeth.Lo@mso.umt.edu).



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# Irish Concert Series Kicks Off with Danny O'Mahony

February 03, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The first performance of “A Springtime of Irish Music of Song” concert series is set for this weekend, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7.

Danny O'Mahony, an accomplished button accordion player, will play at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Montana Tech Library Auditorium in **Butte**. On Saturday, his performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Montana's Music Recital Hall in **Missoula**.

O'Mahony, a traditional Irish musician from Ballyduff in North County Kerry, grew up playing music with the older generations near his hometown. His musical style is expressive and deeply personal, reflecting his affinity with the music of past masters. Both imaginative and fearless in his interpretation, O'Mahony's performance abilities have been acknowledged through winning Junior and Senior All-Ireland titles and graduating from Ireland's University of Limerick with a master's degree in performance.

“A Springtime of Irish Music and Song” is part of the Traditional Music and Song of Ireland music course at UM taught by Éilis Keegan during the spring semester. Keegan is an accomplished musician, a champion Irish fiddler

and a Fulbright Irish language teaching assistant at UM.

The series includes three more performances at UM's Music Recital Hall and the Montana Tech Library and Auditorium in Butte. All performances are from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The remaining schedule follows:

Flute, Concertina and Song – Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin

- Friday, Feb. 20, Montana Tech Library Auditorium – Butte
- Saturday, Feb. 21, UM Music Recital Hall – Missoula

Fiddle – James Kelly

- Friday, March 6, Montana Tech Library Auditorium – Butte
- Saturday, March 7, UM Music Recital Hall – Missoula

Whistle, Bodhran and Song – Liam Ó Maonlaí

- Friday, March 20, Montana Tech Library Auditorium – Butte
- Saturday, March 21, UM Music Recital Hall – Missoula

Tickets to each performance cost \$15 for general admission or \$10 for Friends of Irish Studies members. A ticket to all four performances may be purchased for \$45. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.friendsofirishstudies.com/>, at Rockin' Rudy's in Missoula and at Cavanaugh's County Celtic or Granite Mountain Bank in Butte.

For more information call Ó Ríordáin at 406-544-0311, or email [traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu](mailto:traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu) or [friendsofirishstudies@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofirishstudies@gmail.com).

###

**Contact:** Traolach Ó Ríordáin, director, UM Irish Studies Program, 406-544-0311, [traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu](mailto:traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu).

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# Award-Winning Poet to Read at UM Feb. 20

February 03, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Thomas Sayers Ellis, a University of Montana Creative Writing Program Visiting Hugo Fellow, will present a poetry reading at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, in the Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Sayers Ellis is the author of two poetry collections, “Skin, Inc.” and “The Maverick Room,” which won the John C. Zacharis First Book Award. His poems and photographs have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including “Best American Poetry” in 1997, 2001 and 2010, Callaloo, Grant Street, The Baffler, Jubilat, Tin House, Poetry and The Nation.

He is a faculty member of both the Lesley University low-residency Master of Fine Arts Program and Cave Canem Foundation. Sayers Ellis is spending the spring semester teaching poetry at UM.

“Thomas Sayers Ellis has a fierce and raw awareness of the language: both its music and its tangential meanings,” UM Master of Fine Arts student Jordan Konkol said. “You can tell just by how he carries himself and speaks and engages with students ... that Thomas is a true poet.”



For more information visit the UM Creative Writing Program website at <http://www.cas.umt.edu/creativewriting/>, call program coordinator Karin Schalm at 406-243-5267 or email [karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu](mailto:karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu).

**Contact:** Karin Schalm, coordinator, UM Creative Writing Program, 406-243-5267, [karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu](mailto:karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM Announces Public Invited to Spring Wilderness Lectures

February 02, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana Wilderness Institute will launch its spring 2015 Wilderness Issues Lecture Series, “Wild Lab: Weaving Stories Through Wilderness Research,” on Tuesday, Feb. 3. These lectures are free, open to the public and available for credit as NRSM 371 for UM students.

The lectures will begin at 7:10 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123 on the UM campus.

The lectures will focus on the research value of wilderness, including stories of scientific investigations in wild places on the planet. The series will feature a number of speakers from UM, as well as regional authors, scientists and storytellers.

The lecture schedule follows:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 3:** “Polar Bears, People and Change: Making the Abstract Tangible” by Shannon Donahue, executive director, Great Bear Foundation.

- **Tuesday, Feb. 10:** “Why Protect Wildlands? The Debate Over the Value of Wilderness” by George Wuerthner, ecologist and author.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 17:** “It's Bigger than Wilderness: Transformative Realizations from Doing Wilderness Science” by Alan Watson, research social scientist, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute.
- **Tuesday, March 3:** “Please carry this solar panel, and other requests for free labor” by Natalie Dawson, UM Wilderness Studies professor and director of the UM Wilderness Institute.
- **Tuesday, March 10:** “The Mountain Goat: An American Wilderness Icon” by Bruce Smith, science writer and wildlife biologist.
- **Tuesday, March 17:** “Wilderness Research Then and Now: The Wilderness Institute’s 40th Year” by Bob Ream, Professor Emeritus and former director of the UM Wilderness Institute.
- **Tuesday, March 23:** “Blackfoot River Restoration and Native Trout Recovery in the Scapegoat Wilderness” by Ron Pierce, fisheries biologist, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

For more information call the Wilderness Institute at 406-243-5361, email [wi@cfc.umt.edu](mailto:wi@cfc.umt.edu) or visit [www.cfc.umt.edu/wi/education/lecture-series/default.php](http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wi/education/lecture-series/default.php).

**Contact:** Natalie Dawson, director, UM Wilderness Institute, 406-243-5361, [natalie.dawson@umontana.edu](mailto:natalie.dawson@umontana.edu).



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# UM to Host Dance Performance for Local Schools

February 02, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Fire science and Native American education for youth merge with the performing arts in the CoMotion Dance Project’s presentation of “Fire Speaks the Land: An Active Audiences Performance.” The performance will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 10-11, at the Montana Theatre in the University of Montana Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

Designed for elementary school students and families in Missoula, the 50-minute performance uses original choreography, narration and music to explore fire science, forest ecology and traditional Native perspectives on fire. The beautifully crafted live performance will appeal to all ages and is expected to reach more than 1,500 children and adults in Missoula.

Missoula County Public Schools will bus third- and sixth-grade students to the Montana Theatre to view student-only performances from 9:45 to 10:35 a.m. and 1:30 to 2:20 p.m. Tuesday, and from 1 to 1:50 p.m. Wednesday. There also will be an evening performance for families at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. Sponsored by the MCPS Title VII Parent Advisory Committee, the evening performance is free and open to the public.

“Fire Speaks the Land” is a demonstration of the partnership made possible through the newly launched Any Given Child Initiative. MCPS, the Title VII Parent Advisory Committee and the CoMotion Dance Project have partnered to bring dance experiences into the school day.

“This supports the MCPS goal of engaging learners and transforming learning spaces,” said Karen Allen, MCPS executive regional director. “It brings students into the community to learn about Native cultures and art in a performance setting, expanding our students’ horizons and connecting them to learning in a fun and physical way.”

“Fire Speaks the Land” will feature five dancers, a narrator, unique scenery and lighting, and colorful costumes, as well as several opportunities for the audience to participate in the performance, both on and off stage. Students will explore ecological issues relevant to the region through the combined lenses of fire science and Native American traditional practices.

UM dance Professor Karen Kaufmann, 2014 recipient of the Montana Arts Council’s Artist Innovation Award, directs the CoMotion Dance Project, an organization that promotes dance in K-12 education.

Written and produced by Kaufmann and Steve Kalling, the piece features choreography by Kaufmann and Joy French, with live performances by French and four other professional dancers: Allison Herther, Kaitlin Kinsley, Jordan Dehline and Ashley Griffith. The performance will feature original music composed and recorded by Kalling and nine Montana musicians, and Blackfeet musician and storyteller Jack Gladstone will narrate the sound score.

Following the Missoula performances, the CoMotion Dance Project will perform “Fire Speaks the Land” for 800 Flathead Valley students on Monday, March 2, at the Whitefish Performing Arts Center. Participating Flathead Valley schools include Kalispell Middle School, Olney-Bissell School, Edgerton Elementary, Trego School, Somers Middle School and Glacier Gateway Elementary.

For more information about the performances, visit <http://comotiondanceproject.com/schoolperformances/index.html>.

The performances and tours are supported in part by UM and the Montana Cultural Trust, Montana Arts Council, Public Value Partnership, Plum Creek Foundation, Cadeau Foundation, Whitefish Performing Arts Center, Flathead National Forest, Northern Rockies Fire Science Network, Any Given Child/MCPS, individual schools and private contributors.

For more information call Kaufmann at 406-243-2870 or email [karen.kaufmann@umontana.edu](mailto:karen.kaufmann@umontana.edu), or call Cathie Chichosz at 406-728-2400 ext. 1064 or email [ccichosz@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:ccichosz@mcps.k12.mt.us).

**Contact:** Karen Kaufmann, UM professor of dance, 406-243-2870, [karen.kaufmann@umontana.edu](mailto:karen.kaufmann@umontana.edu); Cathie Chichosz, MCPS, 406-728-2400 ext. 1064, [ccichosz@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:ccichosz@mcps.k12.mt.us).

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# Nominate UM Students for Diversity Leadership Awards

February 02, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The Diversity Advisory Council at the University of Montana invites the campus community to nominate outstanding students for the DAC Student Achievement Awards. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, March 6.

The awards honor students whose leadership promotes campus diversity. Nominations can be made online at <http://www.umt.edu/diversity/default.php>.

“The Student Achievement Awards recognize students for their leadership and support of diversity,” said Juana Alcala, a DAC member. “These students help create a diverse, dynamic learning environment at UM, and we are excited to honor them for their hard work.”

Nominees must have attended UM for one full semester during the 2014-15 academic year and be in good academic standing. Students may receive this recognition more than once. A DAC subcommittee receives all nominations and selects students most worthy of the award.



To nominate a student, describe in 200 words or less how he or she has demonstrated leadership, served as a role model and contributed substantially to the ideals of diversity through academic, community, campus or service projects.

The awards are presented each spring during a ceremony and reception sponsored by the UM president and the vice president for student affairs. This year's reception will be held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, in the University Center Ballroom.

**Contact:** Juana Alcala, UM Diversity Advisory Council member, 406-243-2049, [jalcala@mso.umt.edu](mailto:jalcala@mso.umt.edu).



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# UM Advocacy Day to Educate Public about Legislative Issues

February 02, 2015

**MISSOULA** – Brain injuries, autism, Down syndrome, disability services and veteran affairs will be among the topics addressed during Advocacy Day on Friday, Feb. 6, at the University of Montana.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. Presentations will be followed by a booth session for organizations from around Montana that will provide additional resources. All students and members of the public are welcome to attend.

The schedule of presentations follows:

- **9 a.m.:** “Disability Advocacy: Understanding Different Roles and Responsibilities,” Mary Olson, Joe Stone, Lisa Davey, Meg Ann Traci and Carrie Kovachevich.
- **10 a.m.:** “Joining Forces to Advocate and Treat People with Traumatic Brain Injuries,” Cindy Janego and Charney Gonnerman.

- **11 a.m.:** "Veterans in Higher Education," Shawn Grove, Nathan Domitrovich, Kayli Julius and Brian Beker.
- **12 p.m.:** "Meeting the Need: Understanding How Laws Affect Practitioners Abilities to Provide Services in the Context of the Autism Epidemic and What You Can Do About It," Ann Garfinkle and Karlyn Gibbs.
- **1 p.m.:** "Down Syndrome: Information for Advocacy," Janice Nugent.

The day is hosted by Students in Communication and Hearing Working in Action, a student group in UM's Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, and the Montana Speech-Language and Hearing Association.

The educational event targets students in psychology, education, early intervention, social work, nursing, communicative sciences and disorders, and other service professions. Participants will learn about legislative issues affecting educators, health care professionals and consumers during the 2015 session.

This is the third-annual Advocacy Day hosted by SCHWA-MT in partnership with the MSHA. Both organizations engage in philanthropic work and provide service to the Montana community.

For a detailed schedule and more information about the event, visit the SCHWA-MT Facebook page, view the Montana Autism Education Project blog, email UM student and SCHWA President Kylie Bull at [kylie.bull@umontana.edu](mailto:kylie.bull@umontana.edu) or email advocacy committee Chairwoman Nicolette Selensky at [nicolette.selensky@umontana.edu](mailto:nicolette.selensky@umontana.edu).

**Contact:** Kylie Bull, SCHWA president, 208-604-5759, [kylie.bull@umontana.edu](mailto:kylie.bull@umontana.edu).



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# UM's Montana Law Review to Host Panel Discussion on Animal Cruelty

February 02, 2015

**MISSOULA** – The Montana Law Review will host a panel discussion on animal cruelty laws and animal welfare from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in University of Montana Law School Building Room 101.

The panel discussion will take place two days before the premiere of “A Dog Named Gucci,” a documentary film about a puppy who was set on fire, and his determined rescuer who fought for 16 years to change animal cruelty laws. “A Dog Named Gucci” will show at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, during the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Missoula.

Film director Gorman Bechard and UM animal law Professor Stacey Gordon will participate in the panel discussion. Bechard will speak about the film and Gordon discuss animal welfare bills before the 2015 Montana Legislature. The panel discussion is free and open to the public. Tickets for the film screening and more information about the film are available at <http://www.bigskyfilmfest.org>.

**Contact:** Carla Caballero-Jackson, director of external relations and marketing, UM School of Law, 406-243-6254, [carla.caballero-jackson@umontana.edu](mailto:carla.caballero-jackson@umontana.edu).



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