July 2015 news releases

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POLSON – James “Jim” Elser, an internationally renowned freshwater ecologist, will become the next director of the University of Montana’s century-old Flathead Lake Biological Station.

UM President Royce Engstrom announced July 29 that Elser had accepted the position. Elser, a lake ecologist who serves as a Regents’ Professor at Arizona State University, was selected for the position after an extensive international search.

“I was thrilled when President Engstrom offered me the position,” Elser said. “The Flathead Lake
Biological Station is really well-known in my field of limnology as an amazing place to work and study. I was drawn to the position by that reputation, including the terrific research program established by Jack Stanford and the other bio station faculty, but it was all solidified when I visited. The location is unrivaled, facilities are impressive, the station is impeccably maintained, and, perhaps most importantly, the staff is so outstanding and so clearly committed to the mission of the station."

Elser will begin his new duties Dec. 1, though he will not be in residence at the bio station until March 1, 2016. He will succeed Jack Stanford, who will remain director until Elser arrives and then stay on until June 1 as a UM faculty member to complete research, write and mentor his final graduate students. Stanford plans to retire in June after serving the University for 44 years.

"We knew that Jack [Stanford] would be a tough act to follow," Engstrom said. "So we were delighted to find Jim Elser who has the breadth of skills and experience in both science and leadership that is needed to continue the tradition of FLBS excellence. We look forward to a seamless transition."

In addition to being on the ASU School of Life Sciences faculty, Elser is a distinguished sustainability scientist in ASU’s Global Institute of Sustainability; president of the world’s largest water-science society, the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography; is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and holds an active membership with the Ecological Society of America.

"I hope to bring a broad interdisciplinary and international vision to the station," Elser said. "Globally, freshwaters are a critically important resource for our very survival, and lakes especially are central in providing economic, cultural and social value. This is especially true for Flathead Lake, which is a treasure of Montana and the whole Northwest."
Elser is a highly acclaimed scholar who has won numerous awards, including Fulbright Scholar (twice), ASU Professor of the Year by the ASU Parents’ Association, foreign member of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters and the G.E. Hutchinson Award, ASLO’s most prestigious award for research accomplishment. He has an exemplary record of earning research grants, including multimillion dollar awards from the National Science Foundation and NASA.

He has been published more than 220 times in prestigious scientific journals, including prestigious journals including Science, Nature, BioScience, Proceedings in the National Academy of Sciences, Limnology & Oceanography, Ecology and Frontiers in Microbiology, among others. Elser co-wrote the highly regarded book “Ecological Stoichiometry,” which was published by the Princeton Press.

He has studied freshwater ecosystems around the world, has broad research interests and brings extensive experience in community ecology and nutrient dynamics, which are areas of importance and the focus of much previous bio station work on Flathead Lake.

“I want to help make the University of Montana a world leader in advanced research and training in limnology, ecology and environmental science,” Elser said. “FLBS can become a global fulcrum for innovation, discovery and entrepreneurism in those domains, and I am thrilled to join the University of Montana and build a team around that vision.”

Elser earned his bachelor’s degree in biology from University of Notre Dame, his master’s in ecology from the University of Tennessee and his doctorate in ecology from the University of California, Davis.

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UM Dining Director Earns Prestigious National Award

July 30, 2015

MISSOULA – University of Montana Dining Director Mark LoParco recently received an award for his leadership and contributions to the National Association of College and University Food Services and the collegiate foodservice industry at large.

The Richard Lichtenfelt Award – named for NACUFS’ first president – recognizes outstanding service to the association on a national level. NACUFS named LoParco the 2015 recipient during the association’s annual conference held July 22-25 in Indianapolis.

“NACUFS is truly fortunate to have a dedicated leader like Mark,” NACUFS President Zia Ahmed said. “He has been a great resource for this association over the past 30 years. His leadership to begin the governance restructuring process should be highly commended. I was very fortunate to have him as an adviser throughout my time as president.”

The 2015 Richard Lichtenfelt Award is the third industry distinction bestowed upon LoParco in a year’s time. In 2014, LoParco became the first presiding NACUFS president to win the International Foodservice Manufacturers...
UM Dining Director Earns Prestigious National Award - UM News - University Of Montana

Association Silver Plate Award in the Colleges and Universities category. He also was awarded the Doctorate of Foodservice Award by the North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers in February.

LoParco has served as the director of UM Dining for 23 years. He has been actively involved in NACUFS since 1986.

“Mark LoParco strives to be unique, creative and great at what he does,” said Teresa Branch, UM vice president for student affairs. “He works at being the best in the food business. He is truly one of a kind and has excelled in providing quality service at UM.”

For more information call UM Dining Director of Marketing Sam Belanger at 406-243-5089 or email samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.

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MISSOULA — The University of Montana Adams Center recently announced the lineup for the 2015-16 Community Medical Center Missoula Live events. This year’s production titles include “Riverdance,” “STOMP” and “Mamma Mia.”


Pre-sale tickets are available Tuesday, Aug. 10, and public ticket sales open on Friday, Aug. 14. Tickets can be purchased through all GrizTix vendors, online at http://www.umt.edu/griztix/, via phone at 406-243-4051 or at the Adams Center Box Office.
Contact: Adrian Wingard, UM Adams Center events and promotions coordinator, 406-243-5403, adrien.wingard@mso.umt.edu.
SpectrUM, SciNation Conclude Summer Science Bytes Tour at Lake County Fair

July 29, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area and SciNation, spectrum’s partner on the Flathead Indian Reservation, will host the final Science Bytes event of the summer from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Lake County Fair at the Ronan Fairgrounds.

Children of all ages are invited to roll up their sleeves and explore hands-on science at the exhibit, build with Keva planks, launch stomp rockets and participate in health sciences activities, including “Get Set to be a Vet.” Educators and role models in science, technology, engineering and math – or STEM – will guide activities and share their experiences in science careers and higher education.

Launched earlier this year, Science Bytes brings hands-on STEM activities and inspirational mentors to sites that host free summer lunch programs and other community events on the Flathead Indian Reservation. This summer the program reached 1,070 children and 250 adults in Ronan, Pablo, Elmo, Dayton, Dixon, Hot Springs, Polson and Arlee.

“Science Bytes is about feeding bodies as well as minds,” said Jessie Herbert, spectrUM’s STEM education
program manager. “By adding hands-on science and role models to existing summer lunch sites and other community programs, we are able to meet kids where they’re already gathering during the summer and add value to that experience.”

Science Bytes is supported by the Noyce Foundation, Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry campaign, the Simons Foundation, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in downtown Missoula. Through in-museum and mobile programs, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans annually. Its innovative, community-based approach to STEM engagement has garnered national awards.

Dedicated to empowering STEM leaders on the Flathead Indian Reservation, SciNation is an organization of scientists and educators from Tribal Health and Human Services, Ronan Elementary School, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Wildlife Management Program and Salish Kootenai College.

The public can visit spectrUM’s museum at 218 E. Front St. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person.

For more information call Herbert at 406-243-4828 or visit http://www.spectrum.umt.edu.

**Contact:** Jessie Herbert, STEM education program manager, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
UM News: Travelers Contribute $3.9 Billion to Montana Economy in 2014

July 29, 2015

MISSOULA – An analysis recently completed by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana highlights the economic contribution of nonresident travel spending in each of the six travel regions in Montana, as well as 17 of the state’s 56 counties.

Estimates showed nearly 11 million visitors spent approximately $3.9 billion in Montana in 2014, which directly supported $3.15 billion of economic activity and more than 38,000 Montana jobs. The analysis also showed tourists indirectly supported an additional $1.9 billion of economic activity and more than 15,000 jobs. Overall, travel directly delivered more than $1 billion in labor income to the state – and $557 million indirectly.

In northwest Montana’s Glacier Country, travelers spent $1.2 billion in 2014, supporting 12,400 jobs and $945 million of economic activity. Tourist spending supported an additional $627 million of economic activity and 5,200 jobs in the region. The research showed $320 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional $177 million indirectly supported by travelers in Glacier Country.

Flathead, Glacier, Lincoln and Missoula counties were included in the analysis. Research showed $489 million of
Flathead County’s economic activity was directly supported by the $668 million spent in the county, with an additional $319 million supported indirectly. The tourist dollars contributed to 6,800 jobs and more than $179 million in labor income, with an additional 2,700 jobs and $93 million in labor income indirectly supported in Flathead County.

In Glacier County, more than $62 million of economic activity was directly supported by $85 million of nonresident spending, contributing to 960 jobs and $26 million in labor income. An additional $17 million of economic activity, 150 jobs and $5 million in labor income were indirectly supported by travelers’ spending.

Spending by nonresidents in Lincoln County totaled $90 million, contributing to $40 million of economic activity, 620 jobs and $15 million in associated earnings. Tourists in Lincoln County also indirectly supported $19 million of economic activity, 160 jobs and $4 million in labor income.

Travelers spent $285 million in Missoula County, supporting $229 million of economic activity, 2,800 jobs and $76 million in labor income. The tourism dollars indirectly supported $160 million in economic activity, 1,300 jobs and more than $48 million in labor income in Missoula County.

In central Montana, travelers spent $452 million in 2014, supporting 4,200 jobs and $349 million of economic activity. Tourist spending supported an additional $178 million of economic activity and 1,400 jobs in the region. The research showed nearly $104 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional $50 million indirectly supported by travelers.

Central Montana’s Cascade and Toole counties were included in the analysis. Research showed $194 million of Cascade County’s economic activity was directly supported by the $264 million spent in the county, with an additional $115 million supported indirectly. The tourist dollars contributed to 2,550 jobs and more than $64 million in labor income, with an additional 940 jobs and $35 million in labor income indirectly supported in Cascade County.

In Toole County, more than $35 million of economic activity was directly supported by $75 million of nonresident spending, contributing to 460 jobs and $14 million in labor income. An additional $10 million of economic activity, 90 jobs and nearly $3 million in labor income were indirectly supported by travelers’ spending.

In northeast Montana’s Missouri River Country, travelers spent $140 million in 2014, supporting 950 jobs and $68 million of economic activity. Tourist spending supported an additional $28 million of economic activity and 230 jobs in the region. The research showed $29 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional $7 million indirectly supported by travelers in Missouri River Country.

Richland County also was included in the analysis. Research showed $39 million of Richland County’s economic activity was directly supported by the $81 million spent in the county, with an additional $15 million supported indirectly. The tourist dollars contributed to 500 jobs and more than $18 million in labor income, with an additional 110 jobs and nearly $5 million in labor income indirectly supported in Richland County.

In southeast Montana, travelers spent $605 million in 2014, supporting 4,900 jobs and $472 million of economic activity. Tourist spending supported an additional $251 million of economic activity and 1,900 jobs in the region. The research showed $132 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional $77 million indirectly supported by travelers in the southeastern part of the state.
Custer, Dawson, and Yellowstone counties were included in the analysis. Research showed more than $51 million of Custer County’s economic activity was directly supported by the $109 million spent in the county, with an additional $24 million supported indirectly. The tourist dollars contributed to 740 jobs and more than $19 million in labor income, with an additional 230 jobs and nearly $8 million in labor income indirectly supported in Custer County.

In Dawson County, more than $20 million of economic activity was directly supported by more than $45 million of nonresident spending, contributing to 270 jobs and nearly $7 million in labor income. An additional $8 million of economic activity, 70 jobs and more than $2 million in labor income were indirectly supported by travelers’ spending.

Spending by nonresidents in Yellowstone County totaled more than $397 million, contributing to $301 million of economic activity, 3,500 jobs and $92 million in associated earnings. Tourists in Yellowstone County also indirectly supported $172 million of economic activity, 1,380 jobs and $56 million in labor income.

In southwest Montana, travelers spent $390 million in 2014, supporting 3,300 jobs and $315 million of economic activity. Tourist spending supported an additional $191 million of economic activity and 1,400 jobs in the region. The research showed $103 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional $71 million indirectly supported by travelers in the southwestern part of the state.

Beaverhead, Lewis and Clark, Madison and Silver Bow counties were included in the analysis. Research showed more than $31 million of Beaverhead County’s economic activity was directly supported by the $67 million spent in the county, with an additional $13 million supported indirectly. The tourist dollars contributed to nearly 500 jobs and $11 million in labor income, with an additional 100 jobs and $3 million in labor income indirectly supported in Beaverhead County.

In Lewis and Clark County, more than $93 million of economic activity was directly supported by more than $117 million of nonresident spending, contributing to 1,400 jobs and more than $32 million in labor income. An additional $59 million of economic activity, 550 jobs and $18 million in labor income were indirectly supported by travelers’ spending.

Spending by nonresidents in Madison County totaled $59 million, contributing to more than $34 million of economic activity, 460 jobs and $16 million in associated earnings. Tourists in Madison County also indirectly supported $13 million of economic activity, 110 jobs and nearly $3 million in labor income.

Travelers spent more than $109 million in Silver Bow County, supporting nearly $63 million of economic activity, 830 jobs and nearly $27 million in labor income. The tourism dollars indirectly supported $34 million in economic activity, 290 jobs and nearly $11 million in labor income in Silver Bow County.

In south-central Montana’s Yellowstone Country, travelers spent $970 million in 2014, supporting 9,690 jobs and $779 million of economic activity. Tourist spending supported an additional $476 million of economic activity and 3,830 jobs in the region. The research showed $261 million in labor income is directly attributable to nonresident spending, supplemented by an additional $130 million indirectly supported by travelers in Yellowstone Country.

Carbon, Gallatin and Park counties were included in the analysis. Research showed nearly $38 million of Carbon County’s economic activity was directly supported by the $62 million spent in the county, with an additional $15
million supported indirectly. The tourist dollars contributed to 640 jobs and nearly $14 million in labor income, with an additional 130 jobs and nearly $3 million in labor income indirectly supported in Carbon County.

In Gallatin County, more than $527 million of economic activity was directly supported by more than $662 million of nonresident spending, contributing to 6,740 jobs and nearly $184 million in labor income. An additional $347 million of economic activity, 2,830 jobs and $95 million in labor income were indirectly supported by travelers’ spending.

Spending by nonresidents in Park County totaled $196 million, contributing to $124 million of economic activity, 1,970 jobs and $49 million in associated earnings. Tourists in Park County also indirectly supported $46 million of economic activity, 440 jobs and nearly $12 million in labor income.

The full report, including estimates of the economic contribution of nonresident travelers in the other five Montana travel regions and additional county-level estimates, is available on the ITRR website at http://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs/315/.

Contact: Norma Nickerson, director, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, 406-243-2328, norma.nickerson@umontana.edu; Kara Grau, assistant director of economic analysis, ITRR, 406-243-5107, kara.grau@umontana.edu.
Flathead Lake Biological Station Hosts Open House, Introduces New Director

July 24, 2015

POLSON – The University of Montana's Flathead Lake Biological Station invites the public to its free annual Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5. The station is located 17.5 miles north of Polson and 14 miles south of Bigfork along Highway 35 on the east shore of Flathead Lake.

The event is designed to allow visitors to explore the station and learn about
research and education programs. This year’s open house features boat trips, guided tours, nature walks and displays about FLBS science, especially Flathead Lake and its watershed.

Displays include stream, pond and lake animals; animal hides and skulls; and aquatic invasive species. Visitors also will have the opportunity to meet with and talk to FLBS researchers about their work.

Two special presentations are scheduled:

- **2:15 p.m.**: Jay Sumner, executive director of the Montana Peregrine Institute and 2015 Montana Audubon Special Achievement Award winner, will give a presentation about peregrine falcons in Montana. A live peregrine falcon will be the special guest.

- **4 p.m.**: FLBS Director and UM Bierman Professor of Ecology Jack Stanford will introduce several world-renowned freshwater scientists. Pioneering stream ecologist and longtime FLBS collaborator James Ward will give a retrospective of the bio station and Stanford’s scientific accomplishments, and the prestigious lake ecologist Charles Goldman, who set up and oversaw Lake Tahoe’s monitoring program for decades, will provide the background and achievements of the new incoming director, who also will attend.

Research boat tours take place at 1:05, 1:40, 2:15, 2:50 and 3:25 p.m. Participants can reserve a space on the tour by picking up a free ticket during the Open House. Nature walks and guided tours will take place at 1:40 and 3:25 p.m.

For more information about the FLBS, visit [http://flbs.umt.edu/](http://flbs.umt.edu/) or [https://www.facebook.com/UMFLBS](https://www.facebook.com/UMFLBS), call 406-982-3301 or email flbs@flbs.umt.edu.

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MISSOULA – Two University of Montana researchers were among six final winners nationally to receive $500,000 from the Head Health Challenge I, an up-to-$10 million program sponsored by General Electric Co. and the National Football League.

UM Research Assistant Professors Sarj Patel
and Tom Rau, whose work aims to speed diagnosis and improve treatment for mild traumatic brain injury, received the news this week.

The goal of the Head Health Challenge is to improve the safety of athletes, members of the military and society overall. The winners were selected from an initial group of 16 challenge winners who were chosen from more than 400 entries from 27 countries, after having been reviewed and nominated by a panel of leading health care experts in brain research, imaging technologies and advocates for advances in brain research.

As part of the initial group, the UM research team was awarded $300,000 in 2014. For the past year, they were provided mentorship and access to GE researchers and industry leaders.

Other projects were selected from both biotechnology companies and leading research institutions, including Banyan Biomarkers, Inc., BrainScope Company, Inc., Medical College of Wisconsin, Quanterix and the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Patel and Rau conduct research at UM’s Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy. Their team, which includes senior staff scientists Diane Brooks, Eric Wohlgehagen and Fred Rhoderick, are working to discover blood-based biomarkers that indicate how the brain reacts following a traumatic brain injury. The first phases of their research, which were initially funded by a University Grant Program award at UM, then the Missoula-based Montana Neuroscience Institute and the state-based Montana Board of Research & Commercialization Technology, have shown that TBI results in changes in how the brain operates and in levels of proteins and micro-ribonucleic acids. Identifying specific biomarkers will show how TBI changes the brain and could help doctors with diagnosis and treatment.

The first award allowed the researchers to immediately begin identifying injury biomarkers occurring in the brains of athletes or military personnel. Patel said they collected blood samples from people who suffered from a TBI to see if they could detect the molecules and ultimately determine how long it might take for them to return to play or service.

“The first award really got our human testing off the ground,” Rau said. “We had a good body of animal research,
but the Head Health Challenge I award gave us the funding to confirm that the biomarkers are present in human plasma following injury.

The researchers collaborated with UM’s Department of Athletics to collect samples from UM football and soccer athletes. They worked closely with UM Head Athletic Trainer J.C. Weida to draw blood from the players.

“It’s been a really great relationship, and we plan to continue working with J.C. into the next phase of our research,” Rau said.

The current $500,000 award will allow for expanded testing that aims to clinically validate the research. In addition to their work on TBI, Rau and Patel plan to use samples obtained from the human brain bank at the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University, which includes brains from deceased patients, to take their testing one step further and look for biomarkers of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a progressive and degenerative disease of the brain found in people with a history of repetitive brain trauma.

“That’s part of what got us the second award,” Rau said. “We took our research one step further and gave them more than what we said we were going to do.”

He said the research may help solve the mystery of why a localized brain injury causes damage throughout the entire brain. Because proteins work in the body as transporters and catalysts, a disruption in one area could cause farther-reaching problems.

Launched in March 2013, the Head Health Challenge is part of the Head Health Initiative, a four-year, $60 million collaboration between GE and the NFL. The initiative includes a $40 million research and development program from the NFL and GE to evaluate and develop next-generation imaging technologies to improve diagnosis that would allow for targeting treatment therapy for patients with mild traumatic brain injury.

For more information on the Head Health Challenge, visit [http://www.headhealthchallenge.com](http://www.headhealthchallenge.com). For more information on the research happening at UM, call Patel at 406-243-5876 or email sarjubhai.patel@umontana.edu or call Rau at 406-529-7916 or email thomas.rau@umontana.edu.

**Contact:** Sarj Patel, research assistant professor, UM Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 406-243-5876, sarjubhai.patel@umontana.edu; Tom Rau, research assistant professor, Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 406-529-7916, thomas.rau@umontana.edu.
NFL, GE Award UM Researchers $500,000 to Study Brain Injuries - UM News - University Of Montana

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MISSOULA – During the past five years, Montana manufacturing employment grew by 8.6 percent, while national manufacturing employment grew by 3.6 percent, according to a report completed by the University of Montana’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research in partnership with the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center in Bozeman.


“Manufacturing is one of the driving forces of the Montana economy, accounting for roughly 14 percent of the state’s economic base,” said Paul Polzin, who conducted the study. “Montana manufacturing workers earn among the highest wages in the state.”

The study found:

- Montana manufacturing is growing faster than the rest of the nation. There are now 3,262 manufacturing
companies in Montana.

- 72.3 percent of Montana manufacturing companies have fewer than 10 employees.

- Montana has 22,700 full- and part-time manufacturing employees who earn a $44,781 wage on average, compared to an average wage $37,707 for all Montana workers.

- Montana manufacturing employees can expect to earn approximately 27 percent higher wages than non-manufacturing employees.

- Other than “miscellaneous manufacturing,” the three largest manufacturing categories in Montana are fabricated metal products with 482 companies, food products with 360, and wood products with 344.

- Large growth in structural steel manufacturing, small arms manufacturing and ammunition manufacturing account for much of the growth in fabricated metal products.

- Montana’s beverage manufacturing – which includes alcohol production from breweries, wineries and distilleries – has experienced a large growth. There are now 73 companies manufacturing alcoholic beverages in the state.

- Montana manufacturing exports have risen from $290 million in 2002 to more than $1 billion in 2014.

- Montana’s top three export partners are Canada (44 percent), Korea (9 percent) and China (8 percent).

MMEC and BBER prepare “The State of Montana Manufacturing” report each year as a resource for the state.

“We’re pleased to provide the support for this report, which gives Montana’s manufacturers and decision makers important information to gauge the health and future direction of the industry,” said Paddy Fleming, MMEC director.

BBER is the leading collector of primary data that provides analysis of the business, economic and social science sectors in Montana. The bureau 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, marketing director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, rob.vandriest@business.umt.edu.
Actress Loretta Swit, Director Jan Thompson Bring Film to MMAC

July 22, 2015

MISSOULA – The Montana Museum of Art & Culture will present the film “Never the Same” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, in the Masquer Theatre of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center at the University of Montana. The documentary chronicles the experiences of American prisoners of war held by the
Actress Loretta Swit, Director Jan Thompson Bring Film to MMAC - UM News - University Of Montana

Japanese during World War II.

Presented in conjunction with the exhibition “Human Condition: The Art of Ben Steele,” the film will be followed by a Q-and-A session with director Jan Thompson and the film’s narrator, award-winning actress Loretta Swit, famous for her portrayal of Margaret “Hotlips” Houlihan on “M*A*S*H*,” one of the most popular TV series in history.

A meet-and-greet party with Thompson and Swit will take place before the screening from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Missoula Children’s Theatre. Tickets to the party cost $25 each and may be reserved by calling 406-243-2019. Proceeds will benefit the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society and MMAC. “It is an honor to have the opportunity to screen my film during Ben Steele’s important exhibition,” Thompson said. “I hope the audience will more fully understand what Ben experienced while he was a POW after seeing my film in which he plays a significant role.”

“Loretta Swit is an icon among television stars,” MMAC Director Barbara Koostra said. “We’re thrilled she’s coming to Missoula to share her love and respect for veterans, especially Ben Steele, whose POW collection is among the remarkable works in the MMAC Permanent Collection.”

The Paxson and Meloy galleries will be open 30 minutes before and after the film screening for patrons to view the current exhibitions.

“We hope the combination of the exhibition, film and veteran advocacy will inspire and enlighten our audience,” Koostra said.

MMAC recently was named an Editor’s Choice pick on TripAdvisor’s Travel Pod blog for cultural organizations to visit this summer in Montana. “Human Condition: The Art of Ben...
Steele" is comprised of works from the museum's Permanent Collection and presented as a part of the museum's ongoing commitment to display the veteran's artwork. With a collection of nearly 11,000 pieces of art, 2015 marks the organization's 120th anniversary.

Contact: Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2020, barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu; Jessica Vizzutti, programs, publications and fiscal coordinator, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, jessica.vizzutti@umontana.edu.
UM Ranked in Top 2.4 Percent of Universities Worldwide

July 22, 2015

MISSOULA – The Center for World University Rankings recently ranked the University of Montana No. 585 out of universities worldwide, placing UM in the top 2.4 percent of more than 25,000 degree-granting institutions of higher education. UM jumped 21 spots from its No. 604 ranking in 2014.

The CWUR uses eight indicators to identify the world's top 1,000 universities: quality of education, alumni employment, quality of faculty, publications, influence, citations, broad impact and patents.

CWUR publishes the only global university ranking that measures the quality of education and training of students as well as the prestige of faculty and quality of their research without relying on surveys and university data submissions.

"Again, the University of Montana has been recognized as being among the top universities around the world," said UM President Royce Engstrom. "The research and outreach conducted by the faculty and students extends from Missoula to locations around the globe. We are gratified that this ranking recognizes the impact and quality of our work."
UM is among 936 institutions in the country to be featured in the 2015 rankings, and was ranked No. 174 nationally.

For more information visit [http://cwur.org/](http://cwur.org/).

**Breakdown of UM’s ranking in each indicator:**

- National Rank: 174
- Quality of Education Rank: 353
- Alumni Employment Rank: 567+
- Quality of Faculty Rank: 218+
- Publications Rank: 713
- Influence Rank: 315
- Citations Rank: 428
- Broad Impact Rank: 503
- Patents Rank: 702

Overall Score: 44.54

**Contact:** UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, prestalk@umontana.edu.
Private Support for University of Montana Tops $50 million for Second Year in a Row

July 22, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana has had another remarkable fundraising year. Private support for the University in fiscal year 2015 totaled $52.6 million, just shy of last year’s record-breaking total of $53.7 million.

UM received cash gifts, pledges, estate gifts and private grants from 14,014 individuals, corporations and private foundations nationwide. According to the UM Foundation, this funding is a critical supplement to tuition, fees and state appropriations, ensuring the University’s continued excellence.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have so many alumni and friends who care about the University of Montana and recognize the value of higher education,” said UM President Royce Engstrom.

UM Foundation, a separate nonprofit organization, takes the lead in the University’s fundraising efforts, raising and managing funds to support the University’s students, faculty and programs.
Earlier this year, in recognition of its outstanding fundraising efforts, the UM Foundation received an Educational Fundraising Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education for overall improvement in its fundraising performance. CASE is an international association of educational institutions and has recognized exceptional development programs with this award each year since 1959.

Through the UM Foundation, donors provide support for areas across campus, including substantial funding for scholarships and awards. The organization distributed $4.4 million in private scholarships in the 2013-14 academic year and $5 million in 2014-15. For the 2015-16 academic year, $5.2 million in private scholarship funding is available to the University. That's a growth of $800,000 scholarship dollars in the past two years.

While scholarships remain a high priority for the Foundation’s fundraising activities, so does support for a host of other areas on campus. Donors this year supported classroom technology, faculty research, facilities improvements, student programs and more. Transformational gifts to the School of Law and Grizzly Athletics are just a few highlights among this year’s many notable contributions.

“Years of cultivation and donor stewardship have helped us build this momentum,” said Shane Giese, UM Foundation’s president and CEO. “People are stepping up in record numbers with record amounts to support the University.”

Examples of this year’s giving include:

- $10 million for School of Law faculty and students from Zander and Andy Blewett. In recognition of their gift, the law school was renamed the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana.

- $7 million to help construct the Washington-Grizzly Champions Center from Kyle and Kevin Washington on behalf of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. Construction site preparation began in June, with construction slated to begin after the 2015 football season.

- A substantial contribution for classroom technology upgrades in the Liberal Arts Building from Dennis and Gretchen Eck. Construction began in May.

- $1.5 million for a distinguished professor of gifted education from Suzanne and Dave Peterson. Tracey Missett, the new distinguished professor, joins the UM faculty in August.

- $500,000 to support technology infrastructure in the new Missoula College facility from Blackfoot Communications. Construction on the new MC building began this spring.

- More than 1,700 households made donations of $1,000 or more.

A full annual report with financial information and other statistics will be available on the Foundation’s website, [http://www.supportum.org/](http://www.supportum.org/), in late September.

**Contact:** Melissa Wilson, UM Foundation assistant vice president for marketing and communications, 406-243-4609, melissa.wilson@mso.umt.edu.
Private Support for University of Montana Tops $50 million for Second Year in a Row - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA, Montana – Sunburst Sensors LLC, a company resulting from University of Montana research, won $1.5 million in XPRIZE funding on July 20 for producing the best device to affordably, accurately and efficiently measure ocean chemistry.

The Missoula team won two $750,000 grand prizes – one for affordability and one for accuracy – during the $2 million Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE competition. Two second-place awards for $250,000 also were awarded. The winners were announced during a lavish ceremony at the Harold Pratt mansion in New York City.

“It's gratifying to have Sunburst Sensors' employees recognized for their commitment and hard work,” said Mike DeGrandpre, the UM chemistry professor and oceanographer who launched Sunburst Sensors in 1999. “This XPRIZE competition is focused on ocean acidification, and it is rewarding to help raise awareness of this critical issue.”

The Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE competition challenged teams of engineers, scientists and innovators worldwide to create a precise pH sensor that would measure ocean chemistry from its shallowest waters to deepest...
depths. The competition was designed to incentivize creation of these sensors for the study and monitoring of ocean acidification’s impact on marine ecosystems and ocean health, driving the industry forward by providing the data needed to take action and produce results.

XPRIZE competitions are designed to encourage innovative solutions for pressing issues from the world’s brightest minds. The first competition in 1996 resulted in the first private industry-produced reusable spacecraft. The 2010 competition produced the first 100-mile-per-gallon vehicle. For more information visit http://www.xprize.org/.

During a two-year period, 24 teams around the world competed for the ocean health XPRIZE. The teams entered 27 devices in the competition. Fourteen teams advanced to coastal-water trials, and then five finalist teams completed deep-sea trials to depths of 3,000 meters. The other finalist teams were from Britain, Norway, Japan and the U.S.

Sunburst Sensors employs nine people. Company CEO James Beck said the winning device sucks in sea water, puts in a dye that changes color depending on the water’s pH – much like litmus paper – and then shines a light through the dye. The resulting color of the water reveals the acidity.

“It’s exciting to see a dedicated and hard-working faculty member from our University receive national recognition for the fruits of his research,” said Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship. “It also demonstrates how investments in university-based research can lead to companies that produce jobs and products that can have such a positive impact – like protecting the water in our oceans, lakes and rivers.”

For several years Sunburst Sensors was nurtured at MonTEC, a UM business incubator located in Missoula. The business has since graduated to its own location at 1226 W. Broadway. For more information about Sunburst, visit http://www.sunburstsensors.com/.

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Other resources:

https://youtu.be/7vnpGP03eUU (full XPRIZE awards ceremony)

https://youtu.be/aXZPkW4L6uA (video about Sunburst Sensors)

http://oceanhealth.xprize.org/ (Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE page)

Contact: Mike DeGrandpre, UM chemistry professor, 406-243-4118, michael.degrandpre@mso.umt.edu; Sunburst Sensors LLC, 406-532-3246, info@sunburstsensors.com.
Missoula’s Sunburst Sensors Wins XPRIZE for Ocean Device - UM News - University Of Montana
Comedian Gabriel Iglesias to Perform at UM Nov. 7

July 20, 2015

MISSOULA – Comedian Gabriel Iglesias will bring his “#FluffyBreaksEven Tour” to the University of Montana on Saturday, Nov. 7.

The show begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Adams Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets cost $32, $47, $67 or $97. They will be available starting at 10 a.m. Friday, July 24, online at http://www.griztix.com, by calling 406-243-4051 or at the following GrizTix locations: The Source, Worden’s Market, Southgate Mall and MSO Hub.

Iglesias’ stand-up comedy combines storytelling, parodies, characters and sound effects that bring his personal experiences to life. His unique and animated comedy style has made him popular among fans of all ages, who know him as “Fluffy.”

Comedian Gabriel Iglesias to Perform at UM Nov. 7 - UM News - University Of Montana

Central aired the third season of his hit series “Gabriel Iglesias Presents Stand-Up Revolution” in 2014.

Iglesias also has appeared on “The Arsenio Hall Show,” “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” “Conan,” “Jimmy Kimmel Live,” “The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson,” “Steve Harvey,” “Good Morning America,” Cartoon Network’s “The Annoying Orange” and FOX’s “Family Guy.” Iglesias also has co-hosted the top-rated YouTube series “Epic Meal Time” and Ray William Johnson’s “The Equals Three Show.”

For more information call Chanelle Paakkonen, UM productions marketing coordinator, at 406-243-4719 or email marketing@umproductions.org.

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**Contact:** Chanelle Paakkonen, UM Productions marketing coordinator, 406-243-4719, marketing@umproductions.org.
Comedian Gabriel Iglesias to Perform at UM Nov. 7 - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Low-income and first-generation college students, as well as students with documented disabilities, will continue to receive crucial college prep assistance through 2020 thanks to a renewed grant to fund the TRiO Student Support Services program at the University of Montana.

Darlene Samson, director of UM’s TRiO SSS program, recently received a letter from the office of U.S. Sen. Jon Tester confirming the program received more than $2 million in funding for the next five years.

“For more than 30 years the University of Montana’s TRiO program has given hard-working students the opportunity to attend college,” Tester said. “As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I proudly support TRiO funding so more students can attend the University of Montana and take another step toward being the first ones in their family to graduate from college.”

TRiO SSS is a U.S. Department of Education-funded program that serves students attending a four-year college. The students are from low-income families, families in which neither parent holds a bachelor’s degree, or are students with documented disabilities. The program’s main goal is to increase the rate of participants graduating
from college with a bachelor’s degree. It is a component of eight federal TRiO Programs, designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Samson said TRiO SSS consistently shows strong results data. At the end of 2014, 91 percent of students participating in the program were in good academic standing, 81 percent persist from year-to-year and 39 percent graduate.

“I honestly would not have remained in college if not for the support and help I’ve received from TRiO SSS,” said UM student Kara Joyce.

All Montana programs had their funding renewed. More than 2,000 students will have an opportunity to participate in TRiO SSS programs. Annual funding of combined Student Support Services will bring about $4 million to support post-secondary education in the state of Montana.

For more information on UM’s program, visit http://www.umt.edu/triosss/.

Contact: Darlene Samson, director, TRiO Student Support Services at UM, 406-243-4199, darlene.samson@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – A University of Montana School of Journalism assistant professor has been elected as president of the Native American Journalists Association.

Jason Begay, a Navajo from Gallup, New Mexico, and a UM alumnus, joined the UM faculty in 2010. He serves as Native American projects director at the School of Journalism and co-teaches UM’s award-winning Native News Honors Project. He also oversees Reznet, a Native American news, information and entertainment website.

“NAJA's been pretty important to me in my career,” he said. “I'm both really excited and nervous to lead the organization that has done so much for myself and others.”

NAJA launched in 1984 to address challenges faced by American Indian journalists and to foster educational and professional opportunities for indigenous members of the media.

Before graduating from the School of Journalism in 2002, Begay received NAJA scholarships and mentoring from organization members. Such support helped pave the way for a series of professional successes, including an
 internship with The New York Times and reporting for The Oregonian and The Navajo Times.

Begay was selected to replace outgoing NAJA President Mary Hudetz, who also studied journalism at UM, at NAJA’s annual National Native Media Conference in Washington, D.C., July 9-12. The 2015 conference drew more attendees than it has in roughly a decade.

Begay said among his first tasks as president will be to devise strategies for continuing to grow upon the organization’s recent successes under Hudetz’s leadership, including thriving NAJA membership numbers.

Also during this year’s NAJA conference, the organization granted former UM journalism Professor Denny McAuliffe the 2015 Medill-Native American Journalists Association Milestone Achievement Award in recognition of his ongoing commitment to mentoring and teaching American Indian journalists.

For more information on the UM School of Journalism, visit http://jour.umt.edu/.

Contact: Jessica Mayrer, communication and events coordinator, UM School of Journalism, 406-239-1682, jessica.mayrer@umconnect.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The new Master of Education in Early Childhood Education, offered by the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Montana, recently ranked 10th in SuperScholar’s “50 Best Online Master’s in Early Childhood Education” list.
UM Ranks in Top Ten ‘Best Online Master’s in Early Childhood Education Programs’ - UM News - University Of Montana

Childhood Education Programs.”

SuperScholar based its Smart Choice rankings on national accreditation, affordability of the program, college and university reputation, and flexibility in course scheduling and offerings. The list is online at http://superscholar.org/rankings/best-online-masters-in-early-childhood-education-programs/.

“It’s an honor to be recognized so early in our Master of Education Early Childhood program,” said Kristin Dahl Horejsi, director of the UM Learning and Belonging Preschool and co-developer of the new degree. “This is a testament to the thoughtful development of coursework and curriculum.”

The only degree of its kind in Montana, this program will serve to benefit the state’s youngest populations and those who work with them. The coursework will be delivered in an online format to create a readily accessible master’s degree option for current teachers and other human-service professionals to prepare them for emerging needs in the workforce.

“This is an innovative and accessible program that has been needed in Montana for quite some time,” said Susan Harper-Whalen, associate dean of the college. “We are thrilled to be able to offer high-quality, advanced degrees to early childhood professionals across the state and in a format that works with their schedules and professional demands.”

For more information about the program, visit the Early Childhood Education website at http://www.coehs.umt.edu/departments/currinst/masterofed/Early%20Childhood%20Education.php.

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.
UM Ranks in Top Ten ‘Best Online Master’s in Early Childhood Education Programs’ - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Announces 2015 First-Year Reading Experience Book

July 16, 2015

MISSOULA – The University of Montana has selected “The Tiger” by award-winning author John Vaillant as the 2015 First-Year Reading Experience book.

All first-year students at UM are invited to participate in the First-Year Reading Experience. The program provides incoming freshmen with a shared intellectual experience to encourage discussion, advance critical thinking and develop a sense of community.

“The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival” details the hunt for a man-eating Amur tiger in the remote Primorye region of Russia’s eastern border in the 1990s. The nonfiction work was published in 2010 and addresses conservation and natural resources; culture and place; and the human-environment relationship, among other themes.

“The Tiger” earned the British Columbia National Award for Canadian Nonfiction, CBC Book Award for “Best Overall Book,” Hubert Evans Nonfiction Prize, Banff Mountain Festival Special Jury Award, CBA Libris Award for Nonfiction, Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award and Prix Nicolas Bouvier. In 2014, Vaillant received a Donald Windham-Sandy
M. Campbell Literature Prize in Nonfiction.

The book will be used and referenced in classes across campus. The book is available for purchase at The Bookstore at UM, located in the University Center.

Vaillant will speak about his book to the campus community at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, in the Dennison Theatre. He also will hold a special Q-and-A forum for first-year students at 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, in the UC Theater.

Vaillant is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic, National Geographic, and Outside, among others. His first book, “The Golden Spruce,” was a best-seller and won several awards, including the Governor General’s Award for Nonfiction (Canada). His latest book, a novel, is “The Jaguar’s Children.”

UM freshmen are invited to participate in a writing contest based on the book and interactions with the author during his campus visit.

For more information, visit http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/fyreading or email UM's First-Year Reading Experience Chair Megan Stark at megan.stark@umontana.edu.

Contact: Megan Stark, undergraduate services and outreach librarian, 406-243-2864, megan.stark@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Wildlife Biology Program has named Chad Bishop as its new director. Bishop, who previously served as assistant director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, takes over from interim director Winsor Lowe on Aug. 1.

“It is an honor to serve the UM community as the next director of the Wildlife Biology Program,” Bishop said. “The Wildlife Biology Program is among the best in the nation, which is a reflection of the exceptional people who comprise the program – both past and present. I look forward to working with these individuals to lead the program into the future.”
Bishop has a bachelor’s degree in biology from Montana State University, a master’s degree in wildlife resources from the University of Idaho and a doctorate in wildlife biology from Colorado State University. At Colorado Parks and Wildlife, he oversaw statewide terrestrial and aquatic biology programs, as well as the acquisition and management of land and water assets. Before serving as assistant director, he worked as a mammals research leader and an ungulate research scientist with the agency.

A collaboration among faculty in the College of Forestry and Conservation, Division of Biological Sciences and the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, UM’s Wildlife Biology Program is one of the nation’s top-ranked and gives students an interdisciplinary approach to wildlife science and conservation. More information about the program is available online at http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wbio/.

Contact: Leana Schelvan, director of communications, UM College of Forestry and Conservation,, 406-243-6693, leana.schelvan@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana Presidential Leadership Scholarships have been awarded to 26 exceptional incoming UM freshmen. The scholarships recognize outstanding talent, academic performance, leadership and contribution to the community.

This year’s scholarship winners were chosen from a field of more than 200 qualified applicants. Scholarship recipients enroll in UM’s Davidson Honors College and receive a four year tuition waiver plus an additional $5,000 to $7,500 per year. Through the generosity of the James M. and Frances M. Wylder Foundation, UM also awarded two new James M. Wylder Presidential Leadership Scholarships in the amount of $11,588 per year in addition to the four-year tuition waiver.

Montana’s crop of 2015 Presidential Leadership Scholars are Brooke Kern of Absarokee; Jefferson Bagley and Emma Woodring of Billings; Jacob O’Neill of Bozeman; Cortney Walsh and Keegan Whelan of Butte; Kyle Shifflett of Corvallis; Jake Pennington of Elliston; Henry Curtis of Hamilton; Hannah Pepprock of Havre; Noah Hill of Kalispell; Lexi Klawitter of Livingston; Megan Branson, Charlotte Lagner and Mary McCormick of Missoula; Malia Morris of Whitefish; and Garret Jolma of Winnett.
Nine Presidential Leadership Scholars will come to UM from other states. They are Bethany Cramer of Fairbanks, Alaska; Christopher King of Evergreen, Colorado; Joseph Newman of Meeker, Colorado; Serena Nozawa of Ka’a’awa, Hawaii; Savannah Woods of Bonners Ferry, Idaho; Stephen Pelletier of Pocatello, Idaho; Cole Geschwind of Rochester, Minnesota; Rachel Blumhardt of Rapid City, South Dakota; and Elizabeth DeReu of Greenacres, Washington.

“We have recruited an impressive group of students for this prestigious scholarship program,” said Liz Putnam, interim dean of the Davidson Honors College. “These students will contribute to the entire campus through their aspiration to academic excellence and their engagement in leadership and service. We expect tremendous accomplishments from them.”

Contact: Liz Putnam, interim dean, UM Davidson Honors College, 406-243-2541, dhc@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A forum on marketing analytics, QuestMT, will be held Thursday evening through Friday, Sept. 17-18, at the University of Montana. The event is designed to help organizations develop and deepen their capabilities to leverage data for improved decision making. Managers, decision makers and others who need actionable insights from their organization's data are encouraged to attend. The program will consist of featured speaker presentations, panel discussions and training sessions.

The forum aims to help participants develop skills to discover meaning from data and make better data-based decisions; to understand data analytics methods and tools; and to improve communication to generate breakthrough insights from data.

“Most organizations are drowning in data and struggling to make sense of it,” said UM Associate Professor Joan Giese. “QuestMT is designed so that participants will learn how to unleash strategic and marketing insights through data science.”

National experts and thought leaders in marketing analytics will travel to Missoula to be a part of the forum.
“We are particularly excited about our kick-off speaker, Marc Mertens, CEO of the organization A Hundred Years,” Giese said.

Mertens’ organization believes the world’s greatest challenges can be solved through innovations and focuses on work that has a lasting, positive impact on the world. A Hundred Years subscribes to the notion that when focus is shifted away from marketable products, and over to real, everyday challenges and issues, true success can be achieved.

Mertens’ talk will address how data analytics can be used to solve the world’s most pressing problems. Other nationally renowned speakers, panelists and trainers include:

- Paul Roetzer, CEO of PR2020, a marketing agency that provides performance-driven marketing services, and author of the “Marketing Performance Blueprint.”

- Jane Crisan, chief operations officer and president of R2C Group, a Portland, Oregon-based agency specializing in the intersection of direct, sales-driven marketing and brand advertising.

- Young-Bean Song, principal at Analytics DNA, a Seattle-based strategy and analytics consultancy.

- John Chandler, clinical professor of marketing at UM and principal of Data Insights, a consultancy addressing hard business questions with data science to unearth actionable insights.

- Jason Hoffman, CEO of Ars Quanta, a company specializing in both the art and the science of quantitative modeling of business problems to drive growth, revenue and profit.

- Maziar Sattari, vice president of Turn, a Silicon Valley-based software company providing a digital advertising hub that offers real-time insights for marketing decision making.

The last three presenters will conduct the Friday afternoon training session on “Learning to Talk the Talk with your Data Scientist,” where participants will learn most important techniques that data scientists use to research business questions, how these tools fare when introduced into the organization, and the most applicable algorithms used across multiple industries. In addition to learning the lexicon and tools of data scientists, participants also will have access to networking with speakers and panel leaders.

Registration for the event is open, and can be found online at [http://www.questmt.co/registration/](http://www.questmt.co/registration/). Registration costs $295 before Aug. 3, $395 after Aug. 3 and $495 after Sept. 3. Group rates are available if more than one attendee from the same company attends. To make the forum affordable for Montana organizations, small Montana businesses may be eligible for financial assistance to cover full or partial reimbursement. Please see the QuestMT website for details on assistance.

For more information on the featured presenters, visit [http://www.questmt.co/](http://www.questmt.co/).

For more information about the forum, email Giese at joan.giese@business.umt.edu.
Registration Open for Marketing Analytics Forum at UM Sept. 17-18 - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Joan Giese, associate professor, UM School of Business Administration, joan.giese@business.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Visitors can experience hands-on science for free at the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area on Friday, July 17.

Currently sponsored by Community Medical Center, this free Random Act of Community Day is the second of 12 scheduled to take place monthly through June 2016. Beginning in January 2016, Sou and John Barrett will underwrite the series, which was created to ensure open access for all families, regardless of income.

At this month’s Random Act of Community Day, visitors can experience the wonders of static electricity with spectrUM’s Van de Graaf generator and control a piano or a video game with Makey Makey kits. At the Brain Lab, they can learn how reflexes work and how electricity powers our bodies and brains.

More than 300 people attended spectrUM’s inaugural Random Act of Community Day on June 25. A complete list of free Random Act of Community Days at spectrUM is online at http://spectrum.umt.edu/calendar/default.php#RAOC.

“These sponsored days are an excellent opportunity for spectrUM and our community to explore the many wonders
of science together, as well as for community members to learn about potential careers and opportunities in the STEM fields," said Nick Wethington, spectrUM's museum coordinator.

Inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, spectrUM Discovery Area is an interactive science center located in downtown Missoula. Through in-museum and mobile programs, spectrUM serves more than 50,000 Montanans annually. Its innovative, community-based approach to STEM engagement has garnered awards from the Simons Foundation and through the Noyce Foundation's 2014 Bright Lights award competition.

SpectrUM's sponsors and partners include the UM Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Jane S. Heman Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program, NISE Network, the Noyce Foundation, the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation, SciGirls, the Simons Foundation and the Western Montana Area Health Education Center. Its Science for All Scholarship Fund has given the gift of science to more than 10,127 Montana children.

The public can visit spectrUM's museum at 218 E. Front St. from 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.

Contact: Nick Wethington, spectrUM museum coordinator, 406-728-7836, nicholas.wethington@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host two dozen protected-area land managers from around through world Sunday, July 26, while they explore Western Montana as part of the 15th annual International Seminar on Protected Area Management.

Participants in the
seminar, sponsored by the Wilderness Institute and the College of Forestry and Conservation at UM, arrived in Missoula on July 10 after spending two days in Washington, D.C. UM serves as the base camp for participants while they take educational excursions to four national forests, two wilderness areas, the Flathead Indian Reservation, several rural communities and Yellowstone National Park.

The 24 mid-career protected-area managers represent Palestine, Georgia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Moldova, Brazil, Guyana, Israel, Zambia, Armenia, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Gabon, India, Ecuador and Nepal.

“What better place than Missoula to bring this diverse group from the around the world to explore public landscapes in the western U.S. as inspiration to discuss challenges and successes faced by people who manage protected areas around the globe?” said Wilderness Institute Director Natalie Dawson, who also directs the seminar.

The International Seminar on Protected Area Management, which also is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, is an integrated, state-of-the art course that examines strategies to conserve the world's most special places. The seminar is designed for mid-career planners and managers of nationally significant protected areas worldwide, and focuses on evaluating the policies and institutional arrangements that sustain both people and natural resources.

For more information, call the Wilderness Institute at 406-243-5361, email wi@cfc.umt.edu or visit http://www.cfc.umt.edu/isram/default.php.

Contact: Natalie Dawson, director, UM Wilderness Institute, 406-552-5550, natalie.dawson@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The Newsboys, one of Christian music’s most successful touring acts, will perform in concert Friday, Oct. 9, at the University of Montana’s Adams Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, July 17. Tickets are $50 for artist circle, $30 for lower-level seating and $20 for upper-level seating, with a group rate of $15, plus ticketing fees. Tickets are available at the Adams Center Box Office, all GrizTix outlets, online at http://www.griztix.com or by phone at 406-243-4051.

Fans may also purchase the “VIP Pre-Show Experience,” an add-on ticket option that gives fans an opportunity to get up-close and personal with the band. This add-on package includes early entrance into the venue, an exclusive VIP laminate and collectible, early seating and an exclusive Q-and-A session with the band.

Joining the Newsboys on the “We Believe … God’s Not Dead Tour” are special guests Hawk Nelson and Ryan Stevenson. The tour is named for the band’s hits “We Believe,” the group’s longest-running No. 1 single to date, and “God’s Not Dead (Like a Lion),” which has been certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America.
Contact: Adrien Wingard, events and promotions coordinator, UM Adams Center, 406-243-5403, adrien.wingard@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A professor who has taught accounting in the University of Montana’s School of Business Administration for more than 35 years was recently awarded the Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants’ highest honor.

The association presented the 2015 George D. Anderson Distinguished Service Award to Teresa Beed at its 102nd annual conference in June. The award is given annually to a member of MSCPA whose contribution to the accounting profession and involvement in community, charitable and civic activities merit the society’s outstanding recognition.
Beed, who was born and raised in Wolf Point, came to Missoula for the first time when she began college. She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UM and taught at her alma mater for four years before earning her doctorate from the University of Colorado Boulder. She returned to UM in 1980 and estimates she has taught between 5,000 and 7,000 students over the past 35 years.

“Teresa was and is a natural-born teacher,” said longtime UM Professor Jack Kempner. “Based on her many successful years of teaching and advising students, she has gained a deserved reputation as an outstanding educator.”

Beed has played an integral role in MSCPA for years by serving on and leading committees, helping promote financial literacy, serving on the board of directors and acting as a bridge between the profession and accounting students.

“We have been so lucky to have Teresa as an advocate for accounting in Montana,” said Jane Egan, MSCPA executive director. “She lobbies for the students, she lobbies for the profession and the outcome is always good for both Montana employers and Montana CPAs. She’s proof that one person can – and does – make a difference.”

In addition to presenting the award to Beed during its June 18 conference in Kalispell, MSCPA also named UM accounting Associate Professor Joshua Herbold as secretary/treasurer of its Board of Directors for 2015-16. Merna Lechman, a UM alumna and vice president and assistant controller with D.A. Davidson Companies in Great Falls, was appointed to a three-year term on MSCPA’s Board of Directors.

MSCPA is a professional association comprised of more than 1,700 members worldwide. Its mission is to inspire,
empower and impact members to achieve professional excellence.

**Contact:** Tammy Yedinak, executive assistant to the dean, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-6195, tammy.yedinak@mso.umt.edu.
Talk Radio Show to Feature UM Political Science Faculty Monthly

July 07, 2015

MISSOULA – Faculty from the University of Montana’s Department of Political Science will appear monthly on a morning radio show in a new collaboration with KGVO News Talk Radio. The “UM Political Science on the Radio” series began in June. The next installment is Wednesday, July 8.

The segment airs from 8:30 to 10 a.m. during the “Talk Back” show hosted by Jon King and Peter Christian, and will continue through the academic year on the third Wednesday of each month and occasionally on other days.

King proposed the radio feature after UM political science Associate Professor Karen Adams’ third appearance on KGVO’s “Montana World Affairs Council on the Radio.”

“This is a chance for faculty to have a different kind of exchange than we usually do as scholars and teachers,” Adams said. “As political scientists, it’s especially exciting. It’s interesting to find out what local people think and want to know about the issues we study. Plus it’s a great form of outreach for UM.”

The schedule is:
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- **July 8:** Christopher Muste, “The Presidential Primaries and Nomination System”
- **Aug. 19:** Sara Rinfret, “Environmental Politics and Policy”
- **Sept. 16:** Paul Haber, “A Live View from Latin America”
- **Oct. 21:** Robert Saldin, “The Presidency and Congress”
- **Nov. 18:** Peter Koehn, “Climate Change and the Upcoming UN Climate Talks”
- **Dec. 16:** Jeff Greene, “Federal and State Budgets”

A link to listen live and podcasts of past shows are available online at [http://www.cas.umt.edu/polsci/resources/psci-faculty-on-radio.php](http://www.cas.umt.edu/polsci/resources/psci-faculty-on-radio.php). KGVO can be found on the radio at 101.5 FM and 1290 AM.

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MISSOULA – The Institute for Educational Research and Service, a specialty unit of the University of Montana Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, hosted its second annual Montana Victim Advocate Academy June 7-12.

The weeklong training provided 24 advocates in government or nonprofit
agencies who work with victims across a range of crimes and jurisdictional systems the skills to represent the interests of crime victims across the state.

The academy focused on training in core advocacy skills on topics ranging from crime victims’ rights to human trafficking to resiliency in the workplace, using real-life scenarios to test advocates’ abilities to apply their learning.

Nine out of 10 graduates rated the training content of the 20 academy modules “very useful,” and 94 percent rated the scenario-based learning activities “very useful.” Incoming attendees’ test scores on the training content averaged 82 percent, and at the conclusion of the academy the average test score was 93 percent.

“The evaluations provide a clear measure of the training’s efficacy that will translate into improved outcomes for crime victims in the state,” sais IERS Director Rick van den Pol.

“I learned so much,” one trainee wrote on their evaluation. “Both in knowledge and growth as an advocate, I feel stronger and better equipped to assist victims.”

“This training has helped me build confidence as an advocate,” wrote another.

A 40-hour, five-day residential course, the MVAA is designed to provide basic knowledge and skills for individuals with fewer than three years of experience in the field of victim services. The curriculum is based on the National Victim Assistance Academy developed by the U.S. Office of Victims of Crime, and was adapted by IERS to include Montana-specific content.

“Completing the academy evaluation is a major milestone in so many ways,” van den Pol said. “Most important, students are telling us the curriculum and the teaching method is relevant to Montana crime victims.”

Montana is a state of extremes, very large geographically, with a mix of sparsely populated counties, seven urban centers and seven sovereign Indian nations that provide for a complex mix of federal, state and tribal jurisdictions.
“For the first time, Montana victim advocates have access to local, comprehensive training provided by the best practitioners in the field,” MVAA Project Director John Frederikson said. “The national curriculum provided by the Office for Victims of Crime has been modified for the unique needs and situations affecting victims’ advocacy in Montana. I am exceedingly pleased with the quality and competence of the faculty, as well as their excitement in providing this level of training to Montana's victim advocates.”

Funded in 2012 by the OVC for the purpose of providing research-based, high-quality and sustainable training for victims’ advocates who represent 135 different agencies from across the state, the MVAA raises standards of professionalism; encourages increased coordination among agencies and stakeholders; and ameliorates the experiences of victims, with the goal of creating comprehensive victim services statewide.

For more information on MVAA or IERS, visit http://iers.umt.edu/ or call 406-243-4973.

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MISSOULA – The Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana recently was listed as the third-most “underrated” law school in the country, based on its students’ employment outcomes, their median score on the Law School Admission Test and the number of citations that the school’s law review has received.

University of North Carolina law professor Alfred Brophy completed the study, which was highlighted in a June 30 article by Bloomberg Business. It is available online at http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-06-30/the-10-most-underrated-law-schools.

“I am not at all surprised that the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at UM is near the top of the list of underrated schools,” said Lori Freeman, director of the law school’s admissions and career services. “This ranking factors in what we think are some of the most important factors of a great law school.”

As law school applications nationwide have declined, UM’s law school has maintained its student population, with a graduating class size of about 80 students each year. Freeman said the employment rate of those graduates helps to dispel the notion that law school is not a good investment.
“We definitely see strong employment rates in Montana and for our graduates as a whole,” she said. “As an example, in the past three years we have had between 15 and 20 graduates working as judicial law clerks, and the number of federal clerks has increased each year. This is definitely something we are proud of.”

“What this ranking does is reveal how careful students need to be, especially in looking at employment outcomes,” Brophy said in the article. “The job market is so incredibly competitive coming out of law school, you want to make sure you are going to the best school and getting the best value for your money.”

“Ultimately, the things that should matter most are that students share their law school experience with other excellent students when they’re here, and enjoy strong job prospects when they leave,” Freeman said.


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UM Associate Provost for Global Century Education Awarded Prestigious Fellowship

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MISSOULA – The Association of International Education Administrators recently selected University of Montana Associate Provost for Global Century Education Paulo Zagalo-Melo as one of its Presidential Fellows, a highly prestigious program of mentorship for new senior international officers.

“This year’s selection process was quite competitive given the high quality of applicants,” wrote Harvey Charles, AIEA’s former president and chair of AIEA Presidential Fellows.
Committee, in his award letter to Zagalo-Melo. “We are delighted you were selected as one of the AIEA Presidential Fellows for this 2015-2016 year.”

Zagalo-Melo will be paired with a mentor, whom he will shadow while learning about their institution. The program offers a unique opportunity to immerse briefly in the day-to-day activities of the host institution, establish a relationship with a mentor and other administrators and faculty, maximizing learning opportunities.

“Shadowing my mentor and visiting their campus will allow me to learn about a peer institution’s policies, politics and processes,” he said. “The more I learn about what our peer institutions are doing, the better my decision-making and management skills will become. I want to keep contributing to make UM a better university, and I am confident participating in the AIEA Presidential Fellows Program will help do that.”

Throughout the academic year, Zagalo-Melo will be able to consult with his mentor. He also will have the opportunity to observe how an experienced senior international officer and his or her institution address international education challenges and solve problems; learn about national and international issues and how they affect individual campuses; and become a member of a national network of Fellows who serve as resources throughout one’s career.

Zagalo-Melo will work with AIEA President Darla Deardorff to find a mentor who offers the best fit. They will take into consideration Zagalo-Melo’s role at UM, UM’s key strategic issues regarding internationalization, UM’s size, location and type of institution.

“I was thrilled to hear I had been selected,” Zagalo-Melo said of learning about the fellowship. “AIEA’s Presidential Fellows Program is a very selective program and one of high prestige in the international education profession. But it is the learning experience that comes with it that really excites me.”