March 2018 news releases

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March 2018 News

03/30/2018 - Training Offered to Montana Health Care Students - Kerry Haney

03/30/2018 - International Festival Returns to UM April 8, Now Free for Students - Alex Sydorenko

03/30/2018 - Montana Supreme Court Case to Take Stage at UM’s Dennison Theatre - Sara Kryder

03/29/2018 - UM to Host Educators’ Career Fair - Alexandria Harris

03/29/2018 - UM Campus Recreation to Host Women’s Self-Defense Seminar - Emily Simpson

03/28/2018 - UM School of Theatre & Dance, School of Media Arts to Present ‘Everyman’ - Bernadette Sweeney

03/28/2018 - UM Professor Publishes Report on Working Mothers, Conference Attendance - Creagh Breuner

03/27/2018 - University Villages Plans Herbicide Application - UM University Villages office

03/27/2018 - Report: Visitors Spent $3.4B in Montana Last Year - Norma Nickerson

03/26/2018 - Poll: 30 Percent of Montanans Know the State Seal - Sara Rinfret

03/23/2018 - Best-Selling Science Writer to Discuss ‘The Invention of Nature’ at UM - Richard Drake
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03/14/2018</td>
<td>UM and EmPower Place to Host College Readiness Event</td>
<td>Holly Truitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/14/2018</td>
<td>Archives and Special Collections Marks UM Anniversary with Oral History Interviews</td>
<td>Donna McCrea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/13/2018</td>
<td>Montana Students to Present Projects at 63rd Annual Montana Science Fair</td>
<td>Earle Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/13/2018</td>
<td>Missoula College to Host Industrial Technology Career Fair March 21</td>
<td>Mani Stubbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/12/2018</td>
<td>Award-Winning Radio Show to Record Episode on Public Discourse at UM</td>
<td>Caitlin Sager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/09/2018</td>
<td>Three Finalists Selected for UM Provost Position</td>
<td>Chris Comer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/09/2018</td>
<td>UM to Award Honorary Doctorate to Sheila Stearns</td>
<td>Paula Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/09/2018</td>
<td>UM’s Irish Studies, Friends of Irish Studies Host Events to Celebrate Heritage</td>
<td>Traolach Ó Riordáin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/09/2018</td>
<td>UM to Honor Pioneering African-American Mathematician</td>
<td>Marci Bozeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/08/2018</td>
<td>Revered Social Critic to Present ‘Slouching Towards Utopia’ at UM</td>
<td>Richard Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/08/2018</td>
<td>Griz Glow Fun Run to Light up the Night</td>
<td>Natalie Hiller-Claridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/07/2018</td>
<td>New Blackstone LaunchPad Partnership to Benefit Montana Entrepreneurs</td>
<td>Morgan Slemberger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/07/2018</td>
<td>UM Associate Professor to Present on Medicinal Plants for Women’s Health</td>
<td>Rosalyn LaPier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/07/2018</td>
<td>Wilderness Institute Plans UM Lectures</td>
<td>Joanna Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/07/2018</td>
<td>UM Creative Writing to Host ‘Writing @ Work’ Conference</td>
<td>Karin Schalm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/06/2018</td>
<td>UM Law School Brings Home Moot Court Competition Awards</td>
<td>Sara Kryder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/05/2018</td>
<td>Hands-on Activities Planned for Family Science Night in Ronan</td>
<td>Holly Truitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/05/2018</td>
<td>UM to Screen Two Films on Biodiverse Mexican Wetlands</td>
<td>Jim Elser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/05/2018</td>
<td>UM to Celebrate International Women’s Day with Lecture</td>
<td>G.G. Weix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/05/2018</td>
<td>UM Research Examines Link Between Plant Traits, Ecosystem Productivity</td>
<td>John Kimball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/05/2018</td>
<td>UM Law School to Host Montana Stream Access Law Symposium</td>
<td>Sara Kryder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/02/2018</td>
<td>SpectrUM’s ‘Motion’ Exhibit Travels to Charlo</td>
<td>Jessie Herbert-Meny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/02/2018</td>
<td>Special UM Event at MMAC to Feature Outstanding Ceramic Artists at Work</td>
<td>Barbara Koostra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
03/02/2018 - UM Dance Alumnus Returns as Guest Artist for ‘Dance in Concert’ - Karen Kaufmann

03/02/2018 - UM Professor Elected Ecological Society of America Fellow - Cory Cleveland

03/01/2018 - UM Graduate Student Wins Outstanding Presentation Award - Payton Gardner

03/01/2018 - UM Accounting Master’s Program Ranks in Top 20 Nationally - Elizabeth Willy

03/01/2018 - UM Professor Reveals Native American Archaeology in Yellowstone National Park - Doug MacDonald
MISSOULA – A first-of-its-kind educational experience involving up to 140 health care students from Montana’s two largest universities will be held Friday, April 6, at the University of Montana. The event is sponsored by the Montana Geriatric Education Center.

The event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. in Todd Building Rooms 203 and 204. It will include students from the UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences and the Montana State University College of Nursing.

“This unique offering will provide Montana students with an opportunity to learn more about the concepts and value of interprofessional, team-based collaborative care,” said Kerry Haney, the event organizer and a faculty member in UM’s Skaggs School of Pharmacy. “The training session will conclude with students working in interprofessional teams to problem solve through a geriatric case that evolves from one setting to another.”

The session will kick off with welcoming remarks from Sarah Shannon, dean of the MSU College of Nursing, and Reed Humphrey, dean of UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences.
A panel presentation comprised of a local health care team from the Goodman Group Nursing Homes will discuss their experiences with team-based care.

Student attendees are from physical therapy, pharmacy, social work, public health, family medicine and nursing programs.

“This seminar is one effort by Montana University System health professional programs to prepare our graduates to work together effectively in practice and improve patient care outcomes,” Haney said.

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**Contact:** Kerry Haney, assistant professor, UM Skaggs School of Pharmacy, 406-243-4439, kerry.haney@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The 26th University of Montana International Festival will return to campus on Sunday, April 8.

UM's Global Engagement Office and International Student Association invite the UM and Missoula communities to join in a global and multicultural celebration from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the University Center. This year the festival will offer free admission for UM students with a Griz Card. General admission costs $2 per person and $5 per family.

“If previous attendance figures are any indicator, this year’s festival should see attendance in the thousands," said Mona Mondava, the festival director. "We are proud to say this is the second-largest festival at UM.”

The International Festival aims to promote internationalism, multiculturalism and intercultural awareness and appreciation among residents of Montana. Similar to past festivals, there will be a global array of attractions, music, games and food. There will be an International Culture Show, a Global Pavilion area highlighting ethnic cultural diversity, an interactive Children’s World Event, an Atrium International Fiesta and a silent auction of international arts and crafts.
The Montana International Children’s Festival will host a free film festival, screening short international films for children and families. The UC Game Room will grant free entrance to all festival attendees.

The International Culture Show will feature an Australian didgeridoo player, an Indian tabula and harmonium ensemble, and Chinese and Papuan songs. There will be performances by UM’s Pacific Islanders Club, a Cameroon student dancer, a UM percussion group, Native American dancers from St. Ignatius School, a Balinese music group and Missoula’s Downtown Dance Collective. UM’s Russian Club, the UM German Club and Sons of Norway also will participate.

The Children’s World Event will give children the chance to decorate Polish eggs, act out international stories with dolls, make Chinese dragons and learn the art of creating Indian rangoli art designs with colored rice. They also can create western heritage crafts, listen to the music of an Australian didgeridoo and participate in activities presented by international refugee children hosted by International Rescue Committee.

New this year, the festival will host an assortment of ethnic food trucks from around Missoula.

“This is a change from the student-operated food booths of past festivals, but we hope this will be an exciting gastronomic alternative,” Mondava said. “Every world traveler knows the key to experiencing culture and diversity is often through culinary experiences. That is why we are excited about our attendees exploring delicious cuisine from around the world.”

The International Festival is a nonprofit event sponsored by UM and produced by UM’s Global Engagement Office and UM’s International Student Association, with major sponsors that include the UM administration, the University Center, UM Dining, UM Global Leadership Initiative, Associated Students of UM and the Montana Children’s Film Festival.

To receive quarterly updates from UM’s Global Engagement Office, sign up at http://eepurl.com/bf0LwD.

####

**Contact:** Alex Sydorenko, UM Global Engagement Office, 406-243-2288, alexander.sydorenko@mso.umt.edu; Mona Mondava, International Festival director, 406-243-6141, mona.mondava@umontana.edu.
International Festival Returns to UM April 8, Now Free for Students - UM News - University Of Montana
Missoula – The Montana Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a court case at 9:30 a.m. Friday, April 6, in the Dennison Theatre at the University of Montana. The case is Kendra Espinoza, Jeri Ellen Anderson and Jaime Schaefer v. Montana Department of Revenue and Mike Kadas.

An introduction to the hearing begins at 9 a.m. with Professors Pippa Browde and Anthony Johnstone, both of UM’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law. The hearing is expected to last an hour and a half. The public is invited to attend, along with students from UM and local schools.

The question before the Montana Supreme Court is whether the Montana Constitution prohibits tax credits for donations to scholarship organizations that could ultimately go toward religious schools.

In 2015, the Montana Legislature passed a law to provide a $150 tax credit to donors supporting scholarships for private schools. Article X, section 6 of the 1972 Montana Constitution contains a “no aid” provision that prohibits "any direct or indirect appropriation or payment from any public fund or monies, or any grant of lands or other property for any sectarian purpose or to aid any church, school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other
literary or scientific institution, controlled in whole or in part by any church, sect, or denomination."

After hearing concerns about the tax credit’s constitutionality, the Legislature inserted into the law an instruction that it “must be administered in compliance” with this “no aid” provision and a related section of the Montana Constitution. Nearly 90 percent of the otherwise eligible private schools in Montana have a religious affiliation. Citing the Legislature’s instruction, the Montana Department of Revenue implemented the law with a rule that religious schools are ineligible for scholarships supported by the tax credits.

A group of school parents in Flathead County wanted scholarships supported by the tax credit for their children to attend religious schools and they sued the Department of Revenue in state district court.

The parents argue that the department’s rule is not authorized by the tax credit law passed by the Legislature, and that the tax credit is constitutional under “no aid” provision. Second, they argue that the department’s rule unconstitutionally discriminates against religious schools under the Montana and United States constitutions.

A district court agreed with the first argument and enjoined the department from enforcing the rule. The department appealed to the Montana Supreme Court, arguing that without the rule the state would be aiding religious education in violation of the “no aid” provision of the Montana Constitution.

Several interest groups from Montana and across the nation have filed briefs in the case as amici curiae, or friends of the court. The court will hear arguments from the department and the parents.

For more information, call Sara Kryder, the Blewett School of Law director of communications and events, at 406-243-5730 or email sara.kryder@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Sara Kryder, director of communications and events, UM Alexander Blewett III School of Law, 406-243-5730, sara.kryder@umontana.edu.
UM to Host Educators’ Career Fair

March 29, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host the Multistate Educators’ Career Fair, where teacher candidates, school counselors, speech-language pathologists and school psychologists can network with regional and national school districts, on Monday, April 9.

Teacher candidate registration begins at 8 a.m. on the third floor of the University Center. Teacher candidates can attend a strategy session from 8 to 9 a.m., which includes a mock interview between school administrators and a teacher candidate.

Beginning at 9 a.m., teacher candidates may attend information sessions hosted by Montana and out-of-state school districts. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., school districts will greet, network with and interview teacher candidates.

School districts can register on Handshake at https://umt.joinhandshake.com/login and post their teaching positions. Students can view a list of the school districts that are attending and find a schedule of events at http://bit.ly/2GDyJRw.

For more information call the UM Office of Career Services at 406-243-2239.
Contact: Alexandria Harris, recruiting coordinator, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-2239, alexandria.harris@umontana.edu.
UM Campus Recreation to Host Women’s Self-Defense Seminar

March 29, 2018

MISSOULA – University of Montana Campus Recreation, in partnership with Sakura Warrior Arts, will host a women’s self-defense seminar from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, and Thursday, April 12, in Fitness and Recreation Center Room 3.

“We are looking forward to offering something unique that serves women on campus,” said Emily Simpson, senior assistant director of UM’s Fitness Programs. “And Campus Recreation is excited about working with Sakura Warrior Arts.”

Sakura Warrior Arts is a Missoula training facility specializing in self-defense. The dojo, celebrating its 40th year in Missoula, was founded by the world-renowned Jim Harrison, whose fighting style Bruce Lee called “simple and deadly.” Harrison’s grown children, Torr Harrison and Tania Harrison-Brazda, now run the dojo.

“Participants will learn tactics to distract, incapacitate and escape,” Torr Harrison said. “They will gain an introduction to anti-abduction and self-defense. Essentially, they’ll learn how to fight back and distract an assailant long enough to get away.”
The seminar will give women practical, effective techniques that target vulnerable areas such as the eyes, nose, throat, groin and knees.

“Over the past few months, we've mentioned to students the possibility of offering a self-defense course,” Simpson said. “The response was positive, and many students were looking for an opportunity like this. The seminar will help us gauge the interest on campus, and if it goes well, we’re hoping to offer a more in-depth course in the future.”

“I’m excited to take a self-defense class because I think it will be really fun and informative,” said UM student Maggie Mitzel. “I’m glad this is happening right on campus because it makes it easy for students like me to attend and learn skills that will be very beneficial.”

The cost of the seminar is $25. Registration is available through the Campus Recreation online portal at http://bit.ly/2DBXYhr.

For more information call Simpson at 406-243-2833 or email emily.simpson@mso.umt.edu.

###

Contact: Emily Simpson, senior assistant director, UM Campus Recreation Fitness Programs, 406-243-2833, emily.simpson@mso.umt.edu.
UM School of Theatre & Dance, School of Media Arts to Present ‘Everyman’

March 28, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance, in association with the School of Media Arts, will present “Everyman” to audiences in April.

This production marks the first of the season’s Theatre & Dance’s Studio Series. Studio Series productions incorporate inventive staging and minimal design, so the focus will be placed on the performers and the text.

Directed by UM theatre Associate Professor Bernadette Sweeney, performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, April 11-14. Performances also will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday through Sunday, April 14-15. All shows will take place in the Masquer Theatre of UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

The production is general admission only and tickets cost $9. Tickets are available by calling the UMArts Box Office at 406-243-4581 between noon and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, or online at http://www.umt.edu/theatredance. Audience discretion is advised as “Everyman” includes adult themes and language as well as flashing media imagery.
The origins of this dazzlingly humorous and poignant contemporary adaptation hearken back to 15th-century England and an allegorical accounting of the life of one person meant to represent all mankind. Abstractions such as the Senses, Kindred and Death are embodied as comrades and antagonists of Everyman. Despite all the people and things he thought were essential, Everyman realizes that when life comes to a close, you are left with only your own good deeds – however many or few there may be.

“Everyman is a very attractive character who admits that he has ‘been a thoughtless bastard,’” Sweeney said. “Everyman – in this production which incorporates hip-hop dance, live music, experimental media imagery and motion capture – reminds us all of the necessity for basic human decency, kindness and our responsibility to each other and our environment.”

MFA acting candidate Tsiambwom Akuchu will play the role of Everyman as a portion of his final creative project for the MFA.

“The interesting thing about Everyman,” Akuchu said, “is that regardless of whether or not you've lived the same sort of life as he has, it's the very human experience of facing the end of your time that makes him incredibly relatable. One of my favorite lines is toward the end of the show as Everyman contemplates, ‘I think I have a soul.'”

For more information call Sweeney at 406-241-9113 or email bernadette1.sweeney@umontana.edu.

A complete schedule of UM School of Theatre & Dance productions for the academic year is available at http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/Season/17-18-season.php.

###

Contact: Bernadette Sweeney, associate professor, UM School of Theatre & Dance, 406-241-9113, bernadette1.sweeney@umontana.edu.
UM Professor Publishes Report on Working Mothers, Conference Attendance

March 28, 2018

**MISSOULA** – Creagh Breuner, a biology professor in the University of Montana Division of Biological Sciences, recently published a paper with a group of working academic mothers on balancing childcare and conference attendance.

"How to tackle the childcare-conference conundrum," published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and led by Rebecca Calisi Rodriguez from the University of...
California, Davis, promotes greater support for young parents at scientific conferences. The paper is online at http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/03/01/1803153115.

Attending conferences is a crucial step in building an academic career. Conferences open networking doors, foster creativity in research and allow academics to share their research. However, many academics obtain faculty jobs just as they are starting their families, making conference attendance difficult, if not impossible. Finding trustworthy childcare, places to breastfeed or pump, or just finding the funds to bring along help all become barriers to conference attendance for young faculty.

Breuner herself has faced the difficulties of combining early parenthood with academia.

“I had twins in early stages of my career and had to schedule time to pump into three-day job interviews,” she said. “Berkeley gave me 15 minutes every four hours to sit on the floor of the bathroom and pump – and then throw out, since I had to leave my 6-week-olds at home.”

At a recent neuroscience conference with 30,000 attendees, the conference provided three curtained-off areas, each containing just a plastic chair for nursing or pumping.

“The support just isn’t there, which limits the diversity of people that can contribute at a conference, as well as the ability of academic mothers to benefit from attending the conference,” Breuner said.

Over the past decade, some conference organizers have started sponsoring childcare at the meetings, but it is often in a small, windowless room with one adult sitting in a chair.

The paper promotes a four-part approach to reducing barriers for parents at conferences under the acronym CARE: supporting Childcare, either onsite or at home through financial support; Accommodating families with family-friendly dates, venues and schedules; providing Resources, such as lactation, nursing and baby-changing areas;
and establishing a conference-specific social network where parents and caregivers can schedule activities, organize babysitting and childcare swaps, share information and provide emotional support for one another.

Breuner also promotes these ideas at the national conference she attends every year. As part of the executive committee running the society, she formed an ad hoc committee on family support. This committee will use recommendations from the PNAS paper, combined with feedback from members, to establish a set of priorities to support families at the conference.

“As a young mother and assistant professor, it is difficult to request support,” Breuner said. “Now that I’m further along in my career, I can spend my energy promoting change that will benefit younger professors.”

Breuner hopes making scientific conferences more family-friendly will send a message that the organizers recognize the challenges parent-scientists face, that working parents – especially working mothers – are valued, and that they want to encourage a diverse and thriving workforce for conferences and all workplace settings.

For more information, call Breuner at 406-243-5585 or email creagh.breuner@umontana.edu.

###

**Contact:** Creagh Breuner, biology professor, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 406-243-5585, creagh.breuner@umontana.edu.
University Villages Plans Herbicide Application

March 27, 2018

MISSOULA – Work crews at University Villages, a University of Montana housing complex located on the South Campus, will apply herbicides to select areas this spring and summer. Residents and the public should watch for signs posted along the perimeter of treated areas.

Glyphosate – commonly known as Roundup – will be spot-sprayed near parking lots, curbs and sidewalks, as well as in some ornamental flowerbeds. Craighead, Sisson, Elliott, Toole and Lewis and Clark Villages are scheduled for treatment this spring. The herbicide Horsepower will be used for treatment of broadleaf weeds in some turf areas.

Workers will adhere to all procedural regulations and guidelines in applying the herbicide.

For more information call the University Villages office at 406-243-6030.

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Contact: UM University Villages office, 406-243-6030, .
MISSOULA – Last year 12.5 million visitors contributed nearly $3.4 billion in travel spending, according to a recent report from the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana. But the 2017 fire season may have stifled the state’s potential gains.

Forty-seven percent – or 5.8 million – of visitors traveled to the state in the third quarter from July through September and spent 52 percent of the $3.4 billion. Travel groups spent an average of $130.75 per day, for a total of $1.7 billion during the summer months.

Yet, it is likely that this figure would have been even higher had it not been for the severe smoke and fire season Montana experienced during 2017.

“ITRR research suggests that Montana may have missed out on up to $240.5 million in visitor spending because of smoke and fires,” said Jeremy Sage, ITRR economist and associate director. “Visitor spending during 2017 was higher than 2016, but it could have been even more impactful if the smoke conditions had not led people to change, shorten or cancel their plans.”
As for the rest of the year, during the first and second quarters of 2017, traveler groups spent an average of $139.70 and $115.64 per day respectively, totaling $389 million and $723 million in spending. Fourth-quarter spending totaled $503 million, with traveler groups spending $127.59 per day on average.

Visitation to Montana was up 1 percent in 2017, according to Kara Grau, ITRR assistant director of economic analysis, and overall spending in the state increased nearly 11 percent. Travelers directly supported nearly $2.8 billion in economic activity for Montana and almost 39,000 state jobs, as well as indirectly supporting an additional $1.9 billion in economic activity and more than 14,500 jobs.

For more information about 2017 visitor spending estimates, visit http://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs/367/. All information and reports published by ITRR are online at http://www.itrr.umt.edu.

###

Contact: Norma Nickerson, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research director, 406-243-2328, norma.nickerson@umontana.edu; Jeremy Sage, ITRR economist and associate director, 406-243-5552, jeremy.sage@umontana.edu; Kara Grau, ITRR assistant director of economic analysis, 406-243-5107, kara.grau@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – “Can you tell me the words displayed on the ribbon of the Montana state seal?” According to the University of Montana’s Big Sky Poll, 30 percent of Montanans know the answer to this question.

The words “Oro y Plata,” Spanish for gold and silver, represent Montana’s mining roots, which gave rise to the state’s nickname, the Treasure State. Accompanied by a plow, a miner’s pick and shovel, majestic mountains and the Great Falls of the Missouri River, the seal emphasizes Montana’s rich history.

“The UM Big Sky Poll is driven by an academic
mission to provide our students with an applied learning experience to explore a variety of research questions,” said Sara Rinfret, associate professor and Master of Public Administration director at UM. “The state seal question allows us to explore Montanan perceptions about statewide traditions.”

Originally designed by Francis McGee Thompson and accepted through a territorial resolution in 1865, the seal has remained an emblem of tradition, a value Montanans hold dear.

While it is common for traditions to fade over time, about 65 percent of survey respondents either refused to answer or indicated that they did not know the words on the state seal, suggesting that reverence for some Montana traditions may be faltering, Rinfret said.

The poll was conducted via telephone between Feb. 1 and Feb. 19 with 603 randomly selected Montana registered voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/-4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. Use of poll findings requires attribution to UM’s Big Sky Poll.

The Big Sky Poll collects and reports information about Montanans’ perceptions of local, state and federal issues. The poll is directed by Rinfret and Justin Angle, UM associate professor of marketing, in conjunction with seven graduate seminar students from UM’s MPA and Business Analytics programs.

The survey was commissioned with support from UM’s Social Science Research Laboratory. The Big Sky Poll will be offered on an ongoing basis with its next iteration planned for fall 2018.

###

Contact: Sara Rinfret, director of UM’s Master of Public Administration program, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@umontana.edu.
Poll: 30 Percent of Montanans Know the State Seal - UM News - University Of Montana

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Best-Selling Science Writer to Discuss ‘The Invention of Nature’ at UM

March 23, 2018

MISSOULA – An internationally recognized science writer and public speaker will present a lecture and seminar at the University of Montana as part of the 2017-18 President’s Lecture Series.

Andrea Wulf will speak on “The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World” at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, in the Dennison Theatre. The talk is the Brennan Guth Memorial Lecture in Environmental Philosophy, in collaboration with the Flathead Lake Biological Station.

She also will present the seminar “Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature and the Shaping of...
Best-Selling Science Writer to Discuss ‘The Invention of Nature’ at UM - UM News - University Of Montana

American Nation” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. the same day in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. Both events are free and open to the public.

Wulf, who was born in India, moved to Germany as a child and now lives in London. After training as a design historian at the Royal College of Art in London, she became a full-time writer. In 2013, she was the Eccles British Library Writer in Residence and is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. She has written acclaimed books on the topics to be presented in the seminar and lecture.

“The Invention of Nature” has won many awards, including the Royal Society Science Book Prize, the Royal Geographical Society’s Nessa Award, the Costa Biography Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. It was chosen as one of the The New York Times’ “10 Best Books of 2015,” and it has been published in 24 countries. It was ranked in the Top Ten Books in Germany for more than six months.

Wulf also co-presented a four-part BBC TV garden series in 2014 and appears regularly on radio and television. Her popular lectures attract large audiences in the United States and Europe. She has written articles and reviews for many newspapers, including The Guardian, Los Angeles Times, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, The Atlantic and The New York Times.

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

###

Contact: Richard Drake, UM history professor and President’s Lecture Series organizer, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – This spring, two University of Montana community health majors are completing their final semester at the helm of social media for Curry Health Center Wellness.

Alyssa Harrington of Missoula and Mary Eck of Seattle have built a growing audience for the online blog Health Nut and have provided innovative online promotion that has gained the attention of other college health programs.

“This pair has done a terrific job supporting the valuable work of the wellness department at Curry Health Center,” said Jessica Vizzutti, supervisor and media specialist. “Their work has been successful because they know how to keep content innovative and relatable. I know they gained invaluable experience they can put to work in real-world situations after graduation.”

Health Nut has grown to reach an average of over 3,000 views a semester under the leadership of Harrington. Social media engagement, including through Facebook, has grown over 85 percent since Eck began helping manage the content. Together, the pair have worked to bring public health messaging to exponentially more students using a digital-first strategy.
Their work has caught the attention of other colleges and universities. In November of 2017, the duo was asked to present on social media and public health at the BACCHUS Initiatives of NASPA General Assembly national conference in Denver. There, students from across the country who work in student affairs attended Harrington and Eck’s presentation and learned how to enhance their own programming.

Harrington and Eck each will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in community health and prevention sciences from UM’s Department Health and Human Performance in May. They also gained hands-on professional experience as peer health educators during their time at UM.

“Mary and Alyssa have taken our program to another level with their determination and commitment,” said Linda Green, director of Wellness at Curry Health Center. “I can’t wait to see what they do once they graduate.”

For more information on the Health Nut blog at http://healthnut.umt.edu/ or services at Curry Health Center Wellness call 406-242-2809 or email jessica.vizzutti@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Jessica Vizzutti, media specialist, 506-243-2809, jessica.vizzutti@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The singing cowboy known around the world for his Yahoo! yodel will bring his western tour home to Montana in April with a stop at the University of Montana.

Wylie Gustafson, a singer, songwriter and fourth-generation Montanan, and his band will perform “An Evening with Wylie and the Wild West” at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 13, in the Dennison Theatre.

Tickets cost $20 for general admission or $10 for students, and children under age 12 accompanied by an adult can attend the concert for free. They are available at all GrizTix locations, including online at http://www.umt.edu/griztix/ and at the Adams Center Box Office. Tickets also may be purchased by calling 406-243-4051 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The concert is presented by Dennison Theatre Productions and the UM Entertainment Management program. For more information, call Tom Webster, Dennison Theatre director, at 406-243-2853. Learn more about the artist at http://wyliewebsite.com.
Contact: Tom Webster, director, UM Dennison Theatre, 406-243-2853, thomas.webster@umontana.edu.
Switchback Records, UM Productions to Release Elvis Compilation

March 22, 2018

MISSOULA – Four artists local to the Missoula area – Chloe Gendrow, Rotgut Whines, Andrea Harsell and Edgar Allan Kubrick – will perform at 9 p.m. Friday, April 13, at Monk’s Bar to celebrate the release of the album “Missoula to Memphis: An Elvis Compilation.”

Switchback Records, a student-run label at the University of Montana, has partnered with Los Angeles-based music licensing firm Media Horse and the Elvis Presley Estate to present reimagined covers of Elvis Presley songs featuring Montana-based artists. Through this partnership, the songs also are pitched for film and TV placement. As an independent record label, Switchback partners with industry professionals to provide a platform for emerging talent, launching careers beyond the borders of Montana.

“Missoula to Memphis: An Elvis Compilation,” is a 10-track album that ranges from pop to rock and roll, with rockabilly in the mix. The album will be released on April 13 on all digital streaming services, with a limited release of 500 records on vinyl. The vinyl will be available to pre-order at https://www.switchbackrecords.com. Half of the album’s tracks come from local Missoula musicians and half come from the rest of the country. The local artists are:
Chloe Gendrow, a 21-year-old singer, songwriter and producer. She recently debuted a solo album, “Glow.”

Rotgut Whines, a band that combines soulful rhythms with energizing tempos and passionate storytelling to create a signature sound: fingerpickin' soul and roll.

Andrea Harsell, who brings a combination of Americana, rock, R&B and jazz to her original songs.

Edgar Allan Kubrick, a duo known for its mixture of alternative folk, dark folk and punk.

This event is open to adults ages 18 and older. Tickets cost $5 at the door, and doors open at 8 p.m.

For more information call UM Productions marketing coordinator Will Johnson at 541-633-0720 or email marketing@umproductions.org.

Contact: Will Johnson, marketing coordinator, 541-633-0720, marketing@umproductions.org.
MISSOULA – After receiving more than 1,200 applications and conducting about 120 interviews, the University of Montana’s Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana has announced its 2021 class of incoming residents.

The new class of 10 family physician residents, selected through the National Resident Matching Program, will start its three-year training at the end of June.

Interviews began in October and finished in early January. The matching program provides an objective, fair process for matching applicants to residency programs through a computerized mathematical algorithm, which lines up preferences to fill training positions across the United States. This year, the program predicts its largest match in history.

“The resident recruiting visibility of FMRWM has risen dramatically since we sought our first class in 2012,” said Ned Vasquez, director of the UM program. “We interviewed medical students from more than 30 schools in the most recent interviewing cycle, and the overall quality of applicants continues to rise. We will have residents from four medical schools not previously represented in the 2021 class.”
Vasquez said the recruiting process remains highly focused on identifying students who ultimately will be more likely to practice in rural Montana communities. To date, 61 percent of FMRWM graduates practice in Montana and 89 percent practice in rural communities or community health centers.

“We expect these numbers to increase with the graduation of the 2018 class,” he said.

The 2021 class includes:

- Margie Albers of Billings. Attended the University of Washington.
- Emily Anderson of Philomath, Oregon. Attended the Western University of Health Sciences.
- Carey Downey of Pocatello, Idaho. Attended the University of Utah.
- Ariel Fillmore of Salt Lake City. Attended the University of Utah.
- Geoffrey Holman of Stanford, California. Attended Tulane University.
- Sarah Home of Houston. Attended Baylor College.
- Kelsey Morgosh of Bozeman. Attended the University of Arizona.
- Eric Weber of Berkeley, California. Attended the University of Kentucky.

FMRWM focuses on the comprehensive training needed to effectively practice in Montana’s rural and underserved areas. The program’s inaugural class began in July 2013 and graduated in June 2016. Aiming to positively impact the state’s shortage of primary care doctors in rural communities, the program has more than doubled the number of family medicine physicians trained in Montana annually.

Headquartered in Missoula, FMRWM is sponsored by UM and affiliated with the University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Network. The program’s sponsoring hospitals in western Montana are Kalispell Regional Healthcare, Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula and Community Medical Center in Missoula. Residents are involved in continuity clinic training at Partnership Health Center in Missoula and Flathead Community Health Center in Kalispell.

Additionally, the program works with an extensive rural training network of 10 sites: Blackfeet Community Hospital, Northwest Community Health Center, Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, Clark Fork Valley Hospital, St. Luke Community HealthCare, Community Physicians Group-Stevensville, Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital, Community Hospital of Anaconda, Barrett Hospital and Healthcare and Central Montana Medical Center.

For more information visit [http://health.umt.edu/fmrwm/](http://health.umt.edu/fmrwm/).

Contact: Rebecca Morgan, project and communications manager, UM Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana, 406-544-5085, rebecca.morgan@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Montana has a looming health care crisis. According to economist Bryce Ward, Montana will need approximately 16,000 new health care workers in the next decade as baby boomers retire from the health care workforce and need more medical care themselves.

Since launching its Health and Medicine initiative in 2016, the University of Montana has been at the center of efforts to solve for this issue. Now, thanks to $1 million in seed funding from the Madrona Hill Foundation, UM will expand its commitment to educate health care practitioners for communities across Montana.

The gift will provide investments in UM Health and Medicine (UMHM) over the next five years. Key initiatives include the creation new health care professional training programs and funding to attract and support students in the health professions.

“The Madrona Hill Foundation’s investment will significantly improve health care outcomes for all Montanans,” said Reed Humphrey, dean of UM’s College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences and director of UMHM. “Everyone deserves access to high-quality care providers, and with this private support, UMHM is taking the lead in
ensuring that happens.”

UM Health and Medicine supports improved health outcomes for Montana’s many residents through strategic partnerships and by educating practitioners to serve cities, towns and rural communities across the state. The UM campus currently houses seven clinics, over 20 laboratories and some 55 degree paths in health and medicine studies, from two-year to doctorate programs.

With the Madrona Hill Foundation’s seed funding, UMHM will facilitate the launch of an innovative occupational therapy training program in collaboration with Montana State University-Billings, which was approved by the Montana University System Board of Regents in May 2017.

A feasibility study funded by Montana’s Office of Public Instruction showed a desperate and growing need for occupational therapists in the state and identified creating a training program at UM as a key way to address the problem. Occupational therapy complements physical and speech therapy in returning individuals to full function and quality of life.

The funding also will create the Burnham Family Population Health Fellowship for doctoral students in public health and the Burnham Family Practice in Montana Scholarship. Population health fellows will focus on evidence-based solutions to reduce the economic and social burden of preventable illness in communities, while the scholarship will support UM students in the health care field who plan to practice in rural and underserved areas of Montana and the region.

“With our gift, we hope to spur positive change in Montana’s health care landscape, and to inspire others to invest in the future of one of UM’s most innovative and productive new programs,” said Cheryl Burnham, president of the Madrona Hill Foundation.

More information about UM Health and Medicine can be found at http://www.umt.edu/umhm.

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Contact: Kate Stober, UM Foundation, 406-243-2627, kate.stober@supportum.org.
UM News

Recent Study: Waterbirds Affected by Low Water, High Salt Levels in Lakes

March 22, 2018

MISSOULA – A recent study from researchers at the University of Montana, National Audubon Society, Oregon State University and East Cascades Audubon Society shows food sources for migratory birds decline with low water levels and high salt content in lakes.

The study is based on data gathered for more than 25 years at Lake Abert in Oregon, one of the most important stops for migrating waterbirds in the western United States. It found that as surface water levels decline, salinity increases and affects the availability of brine shrimp and other invertebrates – a key food source for waterbirds.

According to the latest results of the study, Lake Abert has decreased by 618 acres – nearly 200 football fields in size – since 1986. The water levels have decreased due to water diversions for human uses, drought and a changing climate. During periods of low water and high salinity, bird sightings at Lake Abert declined by as much as 82 percent.

“Very few long-term studies of natural saline lake systems exist,” said Nathan Senner, a postdoctoral fellow at UM. “Our dataset is thus one of the few that can confirm what people have shown with laboratory experiments – once
Recent Study: Waterbirds Affected by Low Water, High Salt Levels in Lakes - UM News - University Of Montana

Salinities become too high, it really has negative effects on both birds and invertebrates.

The study combines data on waterbird use, lake measurements and invertebrate abundance to document how waterbird numbers changed over 25 years in response to the changes in lake area, salinity and food sources.

Reduction in lake area and increase of salinity also has economic costs. One of the report’s coauthors, Keith Kreuz, had to give up his business at Lake Abert due to uncertainty in the abundance of brine shrimp from year to year. Brine shrimp are used worldwide as a food source in commercial fish farming and for fish food in aquariums.

“We lost our 35-year-old brine shrimp business because of low lake levels, which resulted in toxic high salinity levels and ecosystem collapse,” Kreuz said. “It is unfortunate because Lake Abert could help the local economy by supporting a thriving low-impact, sustainable fishery if only recently diverted water was once again allowed to flow into the lake.”

Saline lakes, which provide critical habitats for migratory birds, are threatened globally and especially in the arid western United States. As lake levels diminish, so can bird populations. For some species, including Wilson’s phalarope, eared grebe and American avocet, at least half of their global populations rely on this network of saline lakes for food and rest during migration. Some also nest in the region. Proper management of Lake Abert and other saline lakes in the West is critical to waterbird conservation in the Western Hemisphere.

“Water in the West is a precious resource, and there is urgent need to better understand and manage use of water throughout the region for the benefit of birds and people,” said Stan Senner, vice president for bird conservation at the National Audubon Society.

For this study, waterbird data were drawn from the Bureau of Land Management and the East Cascades Audubon Society surveys, which used the time and efforts of dozens of community scientists to document changing bird numbers at Lake Abert.

“ECAS was pleased to work with community scientists to study the long-term effects of this beautiful lake and the birds that depend upon it,” said John Reuland, volunteer coordinator for the Lake Abert study.

Johnnie Moore, former chair of the UM Department of Geosciences and world-renowned water scientist, also contributed to the study, which was published in the international journal Biological Conversation at http://bit.ly/2GRbSiW.

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education and on-the-ground conservation. Audubon’s state programs, nature centers, chapters and partners have an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire and unite diverse communities in conservation action. Since 1905, Audubon’s vision has been a world in which people and wildlife thrive. Audubon is a nonprofit conservation organization. Learn more at http://www.audubon.org.

The Western Water Initiative is Audubon’s multistate effort to protect the Colorado River and the West’s saline lakes. Some 65,000 members strong and growing, the network advocates for science-based, nonpartisan water policies and management that benefit rivers and lakes for the birds, wildlife, habitats, cities and economies they
Recent Study: Waterbirds Affected by Low Water, High Salt Levels in Lakes - UM News - University Of Montana

support. To learn more, visit http://www.audubon.org/conservation/western-water.


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**Contact:** Nathan Senner, postdoctoral fellow, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 503-688-8735, nathan.senner@mso.umt.edu; Joey Kahn, communications manager, National Audubon Society, 480-788-2416, jkahn@audubon.org.
Browning Lecture at UM to Feature Noted 6th Circuit Federal Judge

March 22, 2018

MISSOULA – The Montana Law Review will hold its 77th Annual James R. Browning Distinguished Lecture in Law at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 5, in Alexander Blewett III School of Law Room 101 at the University of Montana.

The 2018 lecture will feature Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton of the United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. Sutton will speak about “51 Imperfect Solutions: States and the Making of American Constitutional Law,” based upon his upcoming book of the same title. The event is free and open to the public or $25 for lawyers seeking CLE credit, pending application.

Sutton has served on the 6th Circuit since 2003. Before that, he was the State Solicitor of Ohio and a partner at Jones Day in Columbus. Sutton clerked for Supreme Court Justices Lewis Powell and Antonin Scalia.

Since 2002, the Browning Lecture has brought distinguished lawyers, scholars and judges from across the country to the Blewett School of Law in honor of the late James Browning. Browning was born in Belt and graduated from the UM School of Law in 1941. He served as a member of the inaugural editorial board for the Montana Law Review and in later years served as its editor-in-chief. Eventually he served as clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court.
In 1962, President John F. Kennedy appointed Judge Browning to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. He served for more than 50 years on the 9th Circuit and as chief judge from 1976 to 1988, where he became known for his leadership and modernization of the 9th Circuit. The 9th Circuit Courthouse in San Francisco bears Judge Browning’s name.

UM law students established the Montana Law Review in 1940, and it has become one of the most important resources of legal scholarship in Montana. The purpose of the Montana Law Review is to inform and influence in order to improve the creation, administration and practice of law in this state, the region and the nation.

For more information call Montana Law Review Managing Editor Tim Brothwell at 406-243-2023 or email timothy.brothwell@umconnect.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Tim Brothwell, UM Montana Law Review managing editor, 406-243-2023, timothy.brothwell@umconnect.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The graduation ceremonies of the University of Montana – 2018 Spring Commencement – are scheduled for Saturday, May 12, at the Adams Center.

Two main ceremonies are planned. A ceremony for the University’s professional schools will start at 9:30 a.m. The professional schools are the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, the College of Business, the W.A. Franke
College of Forestry & Conservation, the School of Journalism, and the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences.

A ceremony for Missoula College and the College of Humanities and Sciences will kick off at 2:30 p.m.

Both ceremonies are free and open to the public, though students may be asked to RSVP with an approximate number of family members and guests expected to attend.

Unlike in recent years, most degrees will be conferred during the main ceremonies instead of smaller departmental ceremonies. Graduates will have their names read, have their images projected on the screen at the Adams Center and then shake hands with UM President Seth Bodnar and their respective deans.

Many departments will hold individual, informal ceremonies and receptions to provide the opportunity for students to celebrate with their classmates. These events are scheduled for both Friday and Saturday, May 11-12. Please consult the Commencement website at http://bit.ly/2lwnbNN for full details.

The Commencement website also has information about caps and gowns, parking, diplomas and other frequently asked questions. For more information, call the UM Registrar’s Office at 406-243-5600.

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

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MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana is once again offering UM faculty members financial support in Asian-related research through the Yamaguchi Opportunity Fund.

Each fall and spring semester, the generous support of Akira Yamaguchi allows the University to offer between $500 and $1,000 to faculty members from all departments and schools for Asian studies research and curriculum development related to Asia. Past awards have been given to faculty from history, political science, sociology, music and anthropology. Supported activities include research-related travel, scholarly publications, conference participation and essential research materials.

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

Applicants should submit a two-page proposal detailing the nature and cost breakdown of their request and explaining the impact the support will have on their research or teaching. The proposal must include a letter from a colleague in the field who is familiar with the applicant’s work and able to assess the merits of the research.
The application deadline is Monday, April 16, and awards will be announced in early May. Applications can be submitted to Caitlin Sager, Mansfield Center administrative assistant, at caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.

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

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

Contact: Caitlin Sager, UM Mansfield Center program coordinator, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.

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SpectrUM to Bring ‘Motion’ Exhibit to the Lincoln School

March 20, 2018

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area will bring its popular traveling exhibit, “Motion,” to the Lincoln K-12 School on Thursday, March 22.

“We’re delighted to be traveling to Lincoln, where spectrUM has collaborated with educators for nearly a decade to inspire students about STEM, higher education and career pathways,” said Jessie Herbert-Meny, head of educational programs for spectrUM and the UM Broader Impacts Group.

Featuring hands-on exhibits and interactive activities, “Motion” explores the wonders of physics and engineering. Highlights of the exhibition will include a larger-than-life spinning turntable, a gravity well, flying cups, a Bernoulli Blower and spectrUM’s popular flight simulator. The visit is sponsored by the Lincoln School.

During the school day, students in kindergarten through 12th grade will participate in guided field trips to the “Motion” exhibit. Families and friends are invited to explore the exhibit the same evening at a free Family Science Night from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Lincoln School gymnasium.
SpectrUM’s mobile science program engages K-12 students with hands-on science experiences that, according to spectrUM Director Holly Truitt, are designed “to close persistent opportunity and achievement gaps and foster a vibrant, homegrown workforce in our state.”

Now in its 10th year, spectrUM Discovery Area is UM’s hands-on science center, serving more than 200,000 Montanans annually through in-museum and statewide mobile programming, and collective-impact initiatives on the Flathead Reservation, in the Bitterroot and in Missoula. SpectrUM is part of UM’s Broader Impacts Group, which harnesses the University’s research and creative scholarship to foster social mobility and a vibrant, homegrown workforce for Montana.

To date, BIG programs have reached K-12 students in three-quarters of Montana’s counties and on all seven of the state’s American Indian reservations. BIG and spectrUM are supported by an array of local and national funding sources, including the National Science Foundation, Montana National Science Foundation Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, NASA, the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Jane S. Heman Foundation and the Martin Family Foundation.

In Missoula, the public can visit spectrUM at 812 Toole Ave. from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person.

For more information or to book a school visit, call Herbert-Meny at 406-243-4828 or visit http://spectrum.umt.edu/.

Contact: Jessie Herbert-Meny, head of educational programs, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
Tribal College and Career Fair Circuit Planned for March

March 08, 2018

MISSOULA – The Montana Tribal College and Career Fair Circuit will hit six sites across Big Sky Country in March. The events are:

- **Monday, March 19 – Little Bighorn College**, Campus Gym, 1 Forestry Lane, Crow Agency, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information call Alda Goodluck at 406-638-3144 or email goodlucka@lbhc.cc.mt.us.

- **Tuesday, March 20 – Chief Dull Knife College**, Main Building, 1 College Drive, Lame Deer, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For more information call Joey Ditonno and Zane Spang at 406-477-6215 or email jditonno@cdkc.edu or zspang@cdkc.edu.

- **Wednesday, March 21 – Fort Peck Community College**, GTD Auditorium, 605 Indian Ave., Poplar, 9 a.m.-noon. For more information call Suzanne Turnbull at 406-768-6345 or email sturnbull@fpcc.edu.

- **Thursday, March 22 – Aaniiih’ Nakoda College**, Red Whip Gymnasium, Highways 2 and 66, Fort Belknap, 9 a.m.-noon. For more information call Bob Parsley at 406-353-2607, bparsley@ancollege.edu.
• **Monday, March 26 – Stone Child College**, Campus Gym, 8294 Upper Box Elder Road, Box Elder, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information call Jolin Sunchild and Tiffany Galbavy at 406-395-4875 or email jsunchild@stonechild.edu or tgalbavy@stonechild.edu.

• **Tuesday, March 27 – Blackfeet Community College**, Beaver Painted Lodge Student Commons Area, 504 E. Boundary St., Browning, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information call Ali Smith and Linda Sue Racine at 406-338-5421 or email alismith@bfcc.edu or linda_sue@bfcc.edu.

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**Contact:** Amy Leary, Montana Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities Council, 406-531-3531, amy.lean@montanaconinlages.com; Emily Ferguson-Steger, UM Undergraduate Admissions Office director, 406-243-6268, emily.steger@msou.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The MontanaPBS historical documentary “C.M. Russell and the American West” earned a prestigious award March 16 from the great American artist’s namesake museum in Great Falls.

The C.M. Russell Heritage Award for Storytelling was presented by the C.M. Russell Museum. Co-producers Gus Chambers and Paul Zalis, along with executive
producers William Marcus and Aaron Pruitt, were on hand to accept the award.

“We are honored by this award because we know the standards under which it is granted, and the distinguished and accomplished company it places us in,” Marcus said. “We’re happy that MontanaPBS is able to tell the stories of Montana, and Charlie and Nancy Russell’s story is one of the biggest.”

“We’re so thankful for all of the partners who came together to help us tell the story of the man who’s become the patron saint of Montana,” Chambers said. “We’re glad that so many people have enjoyed the program.”

The documentary examines Russell's arrival in Montana as a youth, his apprenticeship and work as a cowboy on the open range, and his self-taught, almost explosive growth into an iconic American artist who affected generations.

The three one-hour programs premiered on MontanaPBS in November to a large television audience. The producers are creating a one-hour version for PBS, which will encompass both national and international distribution.

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

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Contact: Gus Chambers, MontanaPBS producer, 406-243-4093, gus.chambers@mso.umt.edu; William Marcus, executive producer, william.marcus@mso.umt.edu.
UM Students Earn Scholarships for Hindi Language Immersion in India

March 20, 2018

MISSOULA – Two students from Montana’s only Hindi language program have just won scholarships to study Hindi in India.

Brandon Fulbrook, who has studied Hindi since UM started teaching the language in 2015, received an $8,000 American Institute of India Studies scholarship to spend the 2018-19 academic year in Jaipur in Rajasthan, India. Margaret Grayson, who is completing her first year of Hindi, won a fully paid Critical Language Study scholarship to take an intensive, two-month Hindi course in Jaipur this summer.

“This is a major success for our little program,”
said Ruth Vanita, director of UM’s South and Southeast Asian Studies program.

Fulbrook, a sophomore majoring in political science, said Hindi is listed as a critical language skill by the U.S. Department of State with good reason.

“Hindi language skills in particular are useful for diplomacy and engaging with news media and other outlets which may inform public policy and U.S. foreign policy with India as an important ally,” he said.

Beyond building his career opportunities, Fulbrook looks forward to immersing himself in India’s culture.

“India itself has a fascinating history, beautiful culture and deep wisdom to share with the world,” he said. “These are reflected in its languages as well, and studying Hindi will be a key to open many doors in the understanding and exploration of India.”

UM’s South and Southeast Asian Studies program has made Hindi language teaching possible by successfully applying for three successive years to bring Fulbright instructors from India to teach Hindi at UM at no cost. The first two Hindi teachers, Gaurav Misra in 2015-16 and Surbhi Jain in 2016-17, were hosted for free by supporters of the program, Ginny Therriault and Jeety Kang, respectively. This year, UM Interim Provost Beverly Edmond donated housing for Hindi instructor Srijeet Mukherjee.

This fall, the program hopes to again offer Elementary Hindi, which fulfills the General Education Language requirement. Several scholarships are available to students interested in studying Hindi further in India.

For more information call Vanita at 406-241-5793 or email ruth.vanita@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Ruth Vanita, director, UM South and Southeast Asian Studies program, 406-243-5793, ruth.vanita@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Two months after the U.S. Congress adopted a new tax plan, Montanans are uncertain about what it means for themselves and the state, according to a new University of Montana poll.

Overall, 41 percent of Montanans disapprove of the tax plan, while 34 percent approve and 21 percent are unsure.

In the poll, the level of support for the tax plan varied by political party and income. Republicans showed strong support at 65 percent. Democrats disapproved at 79 percent. Independent voters were more divided, with 39 percent disapproving and 34 percent approving of the tax legislation. Forty-eight percent of individuals who make less than $37,000 annually had the strongest level of disapproval.

Table 1: Federal Tax Plan Approval and Disapproval Ratings

<p>| Do you approve or disapprove of the recently adopted tax plan by the U.S. Congress? |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Approve                         | Disapprove                     |
| 34%                             | 66%                            |
| Not applicable                  |                                |</p>
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<td>$88,001 and above</td>
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</table>

The poll was conducted via telephone between Feb. 1 and Feb. 19 with 603 randomly selected Montana registered voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/-4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. Use of poll findings requires attribution to UM's Big Sky Poll.

The Big Sky Poll collects and reports information about Montanans’ perceptions of local, state and federal issues. The poll is directed by Sara Rinfret, UM associate professor and Master of Public Administration program director, and Justin Angle, UM associate professor of marketing, in conjunction with seven graduate seminar students from UM's MPA and Business Analytics programs.

The survey was commissioned with support from UM’s Social Science Research Laboratory. The Big Sky Poll will be offered on an ongoing basis with its next iteration planned for fall 2018.

###
Poll: Montanans Uncertain About Federal Tax Plan - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Sara Rinfret, director of UM’s Master of Public Administration program, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@umontana.edu.
UM Student Named Newman Civic Fellow

March 20, 2018

MISSOULA – Sophie Moon, a political science and environmental studies student at the University of Montana, recently was named a Newman Civic Fellow. She is one of seven students across Montana to earn this honor.

Newman Civic Fellows are young leaders nominated by college and university presidents who are part of Campus Compact, a national coalition of more than 1,100 institutions committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education to improve community life and to educate students for civic social responsibility.

Moon’s passion lies at the intersection between social and environmental justice. As chair of the board of directors for the Montana Public Interest Research Group, Moon transformed challenges into opportunities for growth, inspiring and energizing others to recommit to their causes. She also works on a local
farm through UM’s Program for Ecological Agriculture and Society, mentors high school youth who are in the correctional system and grows food for the Missoula Food Bank.

“My passion for sustainable agriculture, large-scale environmental change and the legal field was inspired by my coursework in environmental studies and political science at the University of Montana, as well as my experiences interning with MontPIRG and the PEAS farm,” Moon said. “I am especially grateful for the leadership opportunities I have had as an intern and as the current chair of MontPIRG, as these have empowered me to become the civic leader that I am today.”

Moon recently testified during the 2017 Montana legislative session, striving to increase access to sustainable energy solutions. She consistently leads by example, works to bring out the best in others and helps her peers develop their own leadership potential.

“My career goal is to support environmental, social and economic justice as a lawyer in antitrust law and policy in the agricultural sector,” Moon said.

The Newman Civic Fellows Award is sponsored by the KPMG and Newman’s Own foundations. Through service, research and advocacy, these Fellows make the most of their college experience to better understand themselves, the root causes of social issues and effective mechanisms for creating lasting change.


###

**Contact:** Josh Vanek, associate director, 406-243-5175, vanek@mtcompact.org.
MISSOULA – The Mansfield Center at the University of Montana announced the recipients of four annual awards on March 15 in recognition of outstanding engagement in international exchange and public diplomacy.

UM doctoral student Pat O’Connor received the Outstanding Educational Mentor Award for building an open and engaging learning environment for international fellows.

For their efforts in introducing countless international fellows to U.S. culture and the warmth of American home life, Curtis, Theresa, Jack and Zara Noonan earned the Outstanding
Host Family Award.

The Outstanding Professional Mentor Award went to Executive Director Heidi Wallace and EmpowerMT for their work in training global young leaders in tolerance, inclusion and youth empowerment.

UM sponsored programs specialist Colleen Hunter took home the inaugural Outstanding University of Montana Partner award for her commitment to excellence in grant management.

“Since 2009, the Mansfield Center has successfully won the honor of hosting nearly 30 exchange programs of the U.S. Department of State,” said Mansfield Center Associate Director Deena Mansour. “These grants fund the international travel of dozens of Montanans, while exposing thousands more to valuable experiences in global cultures, business practices and languages. At the same time, these programs have drawn nearly $15 million to our community.

“This success relies on the generosity of people like today’s awardees,” Mansour continued. “Our programs are renowned at the highest levels of the State Department for providing experiences that demonstrate the best of who we are as Americans. We’re grateful to everyone in our community who helps to make our world a smaller place.”

The Mansfield Center Awards commemorate the birthday of the late Sen. Mike Mansfield on March 16, 1903. Maureen and Mike Mansfield’s legacy of international engagement and ethics in public affairs and leadership is at the heart of the Mansfield Center’s mission and programs.

“Our awardees are actively involved in supporting this important work of our namesake and his legacy,” Mansour said.

To become involved with Mansfield programs, visit http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/ or call Mansour at 406-243-2713.

###
Contact: Deena Mansour, associate director, UM Mansfield Center, 406-243-2713, deena.mansour@umontana.edu.
UM Dining Expands Sustainability Program

March 16, 2018

MISSOULA – UM Dining at the University of Montana has expanded its approach to sustainability with Just Eats, a program that addresses social, environmental and economic issues of the food system.

“We often think of sustainability in terms of environmental impact and awareness, but in reality, it’s so much broader than that,” said Trevor Lowell, UM Dining director of sustainability. “Through the Just Eats program, we are challenging ourselves to look more broadly at how our business practices affect our guests, our employees, our community and our environment.”

The new program takes on six targeted subject areas across the food system: agriculture, food access, menus, procurement, education and waste.

Many of the programs impact multiple areas. UM Dining’s new Dollar Coffee Club helps reduce waste by incentivizing the use of reusable mugs while also raising money for a sustainability scholarship fund through its $3 membership fee.
Just Eats also boosts long-standing initiatives, such as the UM Farm to College program, which since 2003 has invested more than $9 million in Montana's agricultural economy through local procurement practices.

“We've been very successful with initiatives such as the Farm to College program, and we want to build on that success,” said Camp Howard, director of UM Dining. “Just Eats gives us a platform to talk about sustainability more holistically and to highlight all the other ways we are engaging with these important issues.”

UM Dining is recognized as a leader in sustainability among college and university food services. To read more about the Just Eats program, visit http://www.justeatsmt.com/.

Contact: Trevor Lowell, UM Dining director of sustainability, 406-243-4042, trevor.lowell@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Journalism will host more than 200 students from across the state for its annual High School Journalism Day on Thursday, March 22.

The event begins at 9 a.m. with the Montana Journalism Education Association awards ceremony in the University Center Ballroom. Students spend the rest of the day in Don Anderson Hall engaging in reporting workshops led by UM
We look forward to this day every year,” said UM School of Journalism Dean Larry Abramson. “Our own students and faculty members get to share their love of journalism, and the high school students always arrive eager to learn.”

A schedule follows.

- **8:50-10 a.m.:** Welcome session and MJE A High School Journalism Awards, UC Ballroom.

- **10:10-11 a.m.:** Workshop Session No. 1, Don Anderson Hall
  - “Fake News Game Show” with Professor Dennis Swibold, Room 316.
  - “Photo-J and Your Phone” with Associate Professor Keith Graham, Room 005.
  - “Quick and Dirty Guide to Freelance Writing” with Adjunct Instructor Jeff Gailus, Room 301.
  - “Can This Hashtag Get Me Suspended?” with Professor Lee Banville, Room 004.

- **11:10 a.m.-noon:** Workshop Session No. 2, Don Anderson Hall
  - “Catch the Bad Guys and Save the World!” with Assistant Professor Joe Eaton, Room 316.
  - “Telling Stories with your Instagram Feed” with Adjunct Instructor Lido Vizzutti, Room 005.
  - “Say It Out Loud: An Intro to Audio Storytelling” with Professor Jule Banville, Room 210.
  - “Diversity is not About Being Politically Correct” with Assistant Professor Jason Begay, DAH Room 004.

- **Noon-12:10 p.m.:** Group photo, Don Anderson Hall

- **12:10-1 p.m.:** Student lunch, Lommasson Center Food Zoo

- **12:10-1 p.m.:** High School Advisers’ Session and Lunch, Don Anderson Hall

- **1:10-2 p.m.:** Workshop Session No. 3, Don Anderson Hall
  - “The Power of Observation: Using All Five Senses to Tell a Story” with Visiting Professor Courtney Cowgill, Room 005
  - “So You Want to Be a TV Star?” with Associate Professor Denise Dowling and Assistant Professor Kevin Tompkins, Room 101
  - Tour of Campus with campus visit advocates, meet in DAH entryway

Founded in 1914, the School of Journalism is now in its second century of preparing students to think critically, act ethically and communicate effectively. The Radio Television Digital News Association has ranked the school among the top 10 in the nation.

To learn more about the School of Journalism, visit [http://jour.umt.edu/](http://jour.umt.edu/).

####

**Contact:** Larry Abramson, dean, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-4001, larry.abramson@mso.umt.edu.
March 15, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana and its research partners have earned a $2.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study precision medicine targeted to help Native peoples.

The grant will fund the research of Dr. Erica Woodahl, an associate professor in UM’s
Grant to Study Precision Medicine with American Indian, Alaska Native People - UM News - University Of Montana

Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy.

Woodahl has worked on precision medicine with tribal communities in Montana for more than a decade.

“Precision medicine moves beyond the one-size-fits-all approach by considering each person’s unique genetics, lifestyle and environment when choosing a medical treatment,” she said. “While precision medicine can potentially benefit people of all ethnicities, most research studies have been limited to people of European descent.”

Woodahl and her colleagues seek to build on existing community and university partnerships with tribal communities in Alaska and Montana to advance policy approaches that support precision medicine research with American Indian and Alaska Native people.

The project will address three complex and important challenges: (1) how precision medicine research may benefit tribal people and how research aligns with tribal health priorities, (2) how to develop flexible, community-responsive approaches to the return of research results to tribal participants and their communities and (3) how to address issues of data stewardship that support the full participation of tribal communities in research.

Woodahl will lead the project along with other lead investigators Vanessa Hiratsuka (Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska) and Bert Boyer (Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland). The project includes community and academic research partners in Alaska, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

At UM, Woodahl and Dr. Elizabeth Putnam, professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, have been engaged in a community-academic partnership with the Tribal Health Department of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on the Flathead Reservation.

Dr. LeeAnna Muzquiz, medical director of the Tribal Health Department, as well as members of a community advisory board, are actively engaged in the research partnership.
“Knowledge gained from the project will provide a foundation for the implementation of precision medicine with American Indian and Alaska Native communities,” Woodahl said.

The research is supported by the National Human Genome Research Institute and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The grant is titled “Community-engaged research toward precision medicine with American Indian and Alaska Native people.”


Contact: Erica Woodahl, UM associate professor of pharmacogenomics, 406-243-4129, erica.woodahl@umontana.edu.
UM to Host 5th Annual International Columbia River Treaty Conference

March 14, 2018

MISSOULA – As Canada and the United States start negotiations over the Columbia River Treaty, the University of Montana will host a conference to discuss the future of rivers flowing through western Montana.

“One River, Ethics Matter” will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, in the University Center Ballroom. The event is hosted by UM’s Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy and the Department of Geography and is free and open to the public. Lunch is provided, and an evening reception will follow. Participants are required to RSVP at http://bit.ly/2EWa6yi.

Tribal, First Nations and religious leaders, along with scholars and authors, from the Upper Columbia River will lead the one-day conference on ethics and the Columbia River. The conference series is a multiyear undertaking based on the Columbia River Pastoral Letter issued in 2001 by the 12 Northwest Roman Catholic Bishops of the international watershed, combined with tools used by hospital ethics consultation services.

The conference brings together religious leaders, indigenous people, educators and writers, including:
Ron Abraham, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, tribal councilman and elder
Gary Aitken, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, tribal chairman
Barbara Cosens, University Consortium on Columbia River Governance, University of Idaho College of Law, professor
Jessica Crist, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Montana Synod, bishop
David James Duncan, writer
Tony Incashola, Salish-Pend d’Oreille Culture Committee, director
Brian Lipscomb, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, CEO of Energy Keepers Inc.
D.R. Michel, Upper Columbia United Tribes, executive director
Eileen Delehanty Pearkes, author of “A River Captured: The Columbia River Treaty and Catastrophic Change”
David Shively, UM Department of Geography, chair
William Skylstad, Roman Catholic, bishop emeritus
Pat Smith, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, former Montana delegate
Dan Spencer, UM Environmental Studies program, professor
Pauline Terbasket, Okanagan Nation Alliance, executive director

“One River, Ethics Matter” will examine the moral dimensions of the dam-building era, focusing on U.S. Indian tribes and Canadian First Nations people, rivers and the life that depends on them, and the compelling need to add ecosystem-based function to the Columbia River Treaty.

Topics will include the Libby dam and its international impacts to the Kootenai River and Kootenay Lake; the Hungry Horse dam and efforts to protect resident fisheries; and the Séliš Ksanka Qlispé Project on the Flathead River, a federal license now held by the Confederate Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the first tribal nation to own and operate a major hydropower facility.

The conference series is modeled on South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission public dialogue in the wake of apartheid. The Missoula ethics conference follows four prior conferences in Spokane, Washington; Portland, Oregon; Boise, Idaho; and Revelstoke, British Columbia. The previous conferences focused on restoring salmon above the Grand Coulee dam, floodplain development in the Portland area, the impacts of Idaho Power Company’s Hells Canyon complex of dams and the effects of treaty dams in British Columbia.

Conference sponsors for 2018 include the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Upper Columbia United Tribes, Universities Consortium on Columbia River Governance, the Canadian Water Research Society, the Sierra Club’s Montana, Idaho and Washington chapters, the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, WaterWatch of Oregon, the Columbia Institute for Water Policy, the Center for Environmental Law & Policy, Rachael and John Osborn, UM’s Environmental Studies program, UM’s Native American Studies Department, the Flathead Lake Biological Station and UM’s Department of Geography.

To read more about the Ethics & Treaty Project from the Center for Environmental Law & Policy, visit http://www.celp.org/ethics-treaty-project/. For more information about “One River, Ethics Matter,” visit http://www.celp.org/ethics-montana/ or email Sophia Cinnamon, UM environmental studies graduate student and chair of the conference planning committee, at sophia.cinnamon@umontana.edu.

Other contacts are David Shively, UM Department of Geography chair, at david.shively@mso.umt.edu; Rich Janssen, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Department of Natural Resources director, at richard.janssen@cskt.org; Rev. W. Thomas Soeldner, Ethics & Treaty Project coordinator, at waltsoe@gmail.com;
and John Osborn, Ethics & Treaty Project coordinator, at john@waterplanet.ws.

###

**Contact:** Sophia Cinnamon, UM environmental studies graduate student, sophia.cinnamon@umontana.edu.
Poll: Montanans Divided on Elected Officials, Disapprove of National Monuments Changes

March 14, 2018

MISSOULA – Montanans are divided over the job performance of statewide elected officials but generally disapprove of U.S. Department of Interior recommendations to reduce the size of national monuments, according to a new poll.

These assessments of public opinion are among the findings from the inaugural Big Sky Poll at the University of Montana. The Big Sky Poll collects and reports information about Montanans’ perceptions of local, state and federal issues.

In a series of questions, Montanans rated the job performance of their elected officials from excellent to poor, with the results in Table 1 below.
Table 1. Approval ratings

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<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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<td>Gov. Steve Bullock</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<td>Mont. State Legislature</td>
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<td>Rep. Greg Gianforte</td>
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<td>12%</td>
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<td>Sen. Steve Daines</td>
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<td>26%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Jon Tester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pres. Donald Trump</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>41%</td>
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</table>

The poll also asked Montanans whether they approved or disapproved of Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke’s recommendations to decrease the size of national monuments. Of the respondents, 29 percent approved and 62 percent disapproved of Zinke’s recommendations, while 9 percent refused to answer or did not know an answer to the question.

The poll was conducted via telephone between Feb. 1 and Feb. 19 with 603 randomly selected Montana registered voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. Use of poll findings require attribution to UM’s Big Sky Poll.

The Big Sky Poll is directed by UM Associate Professor Sara Rinfret, director of UM’s Master of Public Administration program, and UM marketing Associate Professor Justin Angle, in conjunction with seven graduate seminar students from UM’s MPA and Business Analytics programs. The survey was commissioned with support from UM’s Social Science Research Laboratory. The Big Sky Poll will be offered on an ongoing basis with its next iteration planned for fall 2018.

###

Contact: Sara Rinfret, director of UM’s Master of Public Administration program, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@mso.umt.edu.
UM and EmPower Place to Host College Readiness Event

UM News

March 14, 2018

MISSOULA – High school students and their families are invited to “Get EmPowered for College” from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at Missoula Food Bank, located at 1720 Wyoming St.

The free event takes place in the upstairs learning kitchen and is hosted by the University of Montana and EmPower Place, a collective effort by spectrUM Discovery Area, Missoula Food Bank and Missoula Public Library.

Students and their families can drop in any time during the event to learn more about opportunities at UM and Missoula College, as well as about how to navigate financial aid and admissions applications. Representatives from UM and Missoula College’s admissions, financial aid and TRiO Student Support Services departments will share information and answer questions.

Free dinner is provided, and high school students can enter to win raffle prizes.

“Our goal is for everyone to feel empowered to continue their education beyond high school,” said Amanda Duley, staff scientist for spectrUM. “Making connections and building relationships with people at the University of Montana
who are dedicated to student success can help families and their high school students feel confident about applying for and enrolling in college."

“Get EmPowered for College” is an initiative of EmPower Place, which is funded by the Missoula Redevelopment Agency and the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences. Dedicated to nourishing the bodies and minds of Missoula's next generation, EmPower Place is a hands-on learning center rich with science exhibits, literacy and STEM activities, library books, role models and free meals and snacks.

EmPower Place will be open during “Get EmPowered for College,” and families with younger children are invited to drop in to explore the space's exhibits, books and activities and meet role models from UM’s We Are Montana in the Classroom initiative.

“‘Get EmPowered for College’ embodies spectrUM, EmPower Place and our collective-impact partners’ shared goals of promoting social mobility and access to higher education for all K-12 students in our community,” said Holly Truitt, director of spectrUM and UM’s Broader Impacts Group. “We’re dedicated to ensuring that all Missoula students feel a sense of belonging in higher education and excitement about the bright futures that await them in college and beyond.”

Now in its 10th year, spectrUM is UM’s hands-on science center, serving more than 200,000 Montanans annually through in-museum and statewide mobile programming. In addition to EmPower Place, spectrUM also engages in collective-impact efforts in the Bitterroot Valley and on the Flathead Reservation.

SpectrUM is part of UM’s Broader Impacts Group, which harnesses the University’s research and creative scholarship to foster social mobility and a vibrant, homegrown workforce for Montana. BIG and spectrUM are supported by an array of local and national funding sources, including the National Science Foundation, Montana NSF EPSCoR, NASA, the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Jane S. Heman Foundation and the Martin Family Foundation.

EmPower Place at the Missoula Food Bank is free and open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information call Truitt at 406-243-4828 or email holly.truitt@umontana.edu.

###

Contact: Holly Truitt, director, UM Broader Impacts Group and spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, holly.truitt@umontana.edu.
March 14, 2018

MISSOULA – In celebration of the University of Montana’s 125th anniversary, Archives and Special Collections at UM’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library is highlighting its collection of more than 175 oral history interviews conducted with UM faculty, students, staff and administrators. Many of these interviews are available online via ScholarWorks at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/oral_histories/.

These interviews, which are part of a larger collection of over 2,500 oral history recordings held by the library’s Archives and Special Collections, share information about the history of UM, student life and traditions, changes to the size and funding structures of the University, and the development of departments and programs.

Hannah Soukup, archives specialist in charge of oral histories, said the interviews are full of interesting details not typically found in other records.
“One of my favorite interviews is with former School of Law Dean Robert Sullivan,” she said. “In addition to talking about his career, Sullivan also tells the story of how he negotiated with the Waterford Crystal factory in Ireland to have a chandelier made for the School of Law building.”

An interview with Facilities Services Foreman Herb Torgrimson includes many anecdotes about University building and construction, such as how President Carl McFarland ordered the closure of Maurice Avenue to keep the highway department from running a highway through the middle of campus.

The Mansfield Library has added over 800 oral history interviews to ScholarWorks in the past two years. The interviews cover a broad range of topics beyond University history, including smokejumping, Montana politics, feminism, homesteading, land use, forestry, the Depression years and conservation in Montana. Physical copies of all oral history interviews are available from Archives and Special Collections.

“We are thrilled to make these interviews more easily available to our students and to researchers around the world,” said Donna McCrea, head of Archives and Special Collections.

For more information about UM’s oral histories visit https://scholarworks.umt.edu/oral_histories/, or call or email Archives and Special Collections at 406-243-2053 or library.archives@umontana.edu.

###

**Contact:** Donna McCrea, UM Archives and Special Collections, 406-243-2053, donna.mccrea@umontana.edu.
Montana Students to Present Projects at 63rd Annual Montana Science Fair

March 13, 2018

MISSOULA – High school and middle school students from across Montana will present their research findings at the 63rd annual Montana Science Fair on Monday, March 19, at the University of Montana’s Adams Center.

More than $15,000 in prizes will be awarded to student participants, including cash awards, scholarships and all-expense paid trips. The grand award winners from the Montana Science Fair and Montana’s regional fairs will go on to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair May 13-18 in Pittsburgh. Montana’s delegates for the National Youth Science Camp, a monthlong science education program that honors two high school seniors from each state, also will be announced at the science fair.

The UM STEAM Lounge will host hands-on activities for parents, teachers and students from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, March 18. Exhibits will be open for public viewing from 7 to 9 p.m. March 19 and from 8 to 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 20. The awards ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. March 20, in the Dennison Theatre.

Blackfoot Communications, the University of Montana College of Humanities and Sciences, the University of Montana Health & Medicine, and a variety of campus and community groups and individuals sponsor the Montana
Montana Students to Present Projects at 63rd Annual Montana Science Fair - UM News - University Of Montana

Science Fair.

A full schedule of events is posted online at http://hs.umt.edu/mtsciencefair/schedule.php. For more information visit http://hs.umt.edu/mtsciencefair/default.php.

Contact: Earle Adams, director, earle.adams@msou.umt.edu, earle.adams@msou.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Missoula College University of Montana students can meet and network with employers to learn about internships, summer and part-time employment, as well as post-graduation and full-time employment, at the 2018 Industrial Technology Career Fair.

The fair, organized by UM's Office of Career Services, will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, at the Missoula College West Campus, located at 2795 37th Ave. It is free and open to all UM students, prospective students and alumni.

Any business or organization seeking to employ students trained in the Missoula College programs of diesel technology, heavy equipment operation, precision machine technology, sustainable construction technology and welding are encouraged to attend.

The Industrial Technology Career Fair supports the mission of Missoula College’s Department of Industrial Technology by connecting its students with employers in need of skilled workers.
For more information or registration details, call Mani Stubbs, UM Office of Career Services career counselor, at 406-243-6830 or email manuel.stubbs@mso.umt.edu.

###

Contact: Mani Stubbs, career counselor, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-6830, manuel.stubbs@mso.umt.edu.
March 12, 2018

MISSOULA – Krista Tippett’s award-winning radio show and podcast “On Being” will record a new episode for the Civil Conversations Project in the University of Montana Dennison Theatre at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 20.

“Repairing Public Discourse” is an exploration of politics and civility in the United States with guests Sally Kohn and Erick Erickson, along with host Tippett, in discussion on stage. The event is free and open to the public, and no reservations are needed. The discourse will include questions from the audience.

Since the 2016 presidential elections, awareness of the deep divisions in American society and the breakdown of productive public discourse across party and ideological lines has grown. Tippett’s Civil Conversations Project models a new approach to
civil dialogue.

“Repairing Public Discourse” brings together Kohn and Erickson, representatives from opposite ends of the political spectrum, who both have recently written books about how to be our best selves despite divergent views and beliefs. Together with Tippett, they will explore the future of public discourse.

Tippett is a Peabody award-winning broadcaster, National Humanities Medalist and New York Times bestselling author. She founded and leads the On Being Project, hosts the globally esteemed “On Being” public radio show and podcast, and curates the Civil Conversations Project, an emergent approach to conversation and relationship across the differences of our time.

Kohn is one of the leading progressive voices in America today. She is a CNN political commentator and columnist and a previous Fox News contributor. Before that, she held a program fellowship at the Ford Foundation to help manage more than $15 million in annual grants to social justice organizations nationwide. Kohn received a joint degree in law and public administration from New York University and became a Root-Tilden-Kern Public Service Scholar at the NYU School of Law. She is the author of the book “The Opposite of Hate” and host of the podcast “State of Resistance.”

Erickson is the host of Atlanta’s Evening News on WSB and editor of the blog “The Resurgent.” He has contributed to both CNN and Fox News, and The Atlantic named him one of the most influential conservative voices in America. Erickson studied political science and history at Mercer University and earned a law degree at the Walter F. George School of Law. He is working toward a doctorate in theology and is the author of the book “Before You Wake: Life Lessons from a Father to His Children.”

The UM event is a joint project of the “On Being” Civil Conversations Project, Montana Public Radio, the UM Mansfield Center’s Ethics and Public Affairs Program, and The Project on American Democracy and Citizenship.

For more information email Caitlin Sager, UM Mansfield Center program coordinator, at caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu
or visit http://www.umt.edu/mansfield or http://mtpr.org/post/join-civil-dialogue-being-s-krista-tippett.

The “On Being” program is on air at 4 p.m. Saturdays on Montana Public Radio and on demand at https://onbeing.org/.

Contact: Caitlin Sager, program coordinator, UM Mansfield Center, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.
Three Finalists Selected for UM Provost Position

March 09, 2018

MISSOULA – Three finalists for the position of executive vice president for academic affairs and provost will interview this month at the University of Montana.

The provost serves as chief academic officer, overseeing the University’s academic operations and efforts to promote student success. The position answers directly to UM President Seth Bodnar and serves on the president’s cabinet.

The three finalists are Jon Harbor, executive director of digital education and associate vice provost for teaching and learning at Purdue University in Indiana; Tim Dunnagan, dean of the Expanded College of Health Sciences at Boise State University in Idaho; and Lynn Okagaki, deputy provost for academic affairs at the University of Delaware.
“After working with a deep pool of candidates and interviewing nine semifinalists, we are bringing three experienced scholar-administrators to campus,” said Christopher Comer, chair of the search committee and dean of UM’s College of Humanities and Sciences. “These finalists come from diverse backgrounds: One is from the East, one from the Midwest and another from the West. They will interview with many sectors of campus.

“We invite members of the broader community to participate in the process and provide us with feedback,” Comer said. “It’s imperative that we understand the different talents each person can bring to UM and how they can work in partnership with President Bodnar to move the University forward.”

A faculty forum, as well as an open forum for the campus and broader community, are planned for each candidate. Following are the forum times and locations:

- **Jon Harbor** – Faculty forum: 4 to 5:15 p.m., Thursday, March 15, University Center Theater. Public open forum: 4 to 5:15 p.m. Friday, March 16, UC 330-333.

- **Tim Dunnagan** – Faculty forum: 4 to 5:15 p.m., Monday, March 19, UC Theater. Public open forum: 4 to 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, UC North Ballroom.

- **Lynn Okagaki** – Faculty forum: 4 to 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, UC Theater. Public open forum: 4 to 5:15 p.m. Thursday, March 22, UC Theater.

Each public forum will be streamed and recorded by MCAT.

Harbor works with many campuswide programs at Purdue and has served in a variety of leadership roles in his current position. He is a professor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, with research and teaching interests in applied hydrology, environmental education and glacial geology. His teaching and mentoring have been recognized by Purdue’s top university awards. He is a prolific author whose research has garnered more than $10 million in grants.

Harbor is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (UK), a former Fulbright Senior Scholar, an American Council on Education Fellow and Marie Curie Fellow (EU). In 2015, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Stockholm University. He holds a doctorate in geological sciences from the University of Washington.

Dunnagan has worked in his current role at the Boise State College of Health Sciences for more than seven years. He has grown self-support online programming from 280 students to 1,400 students, generating nearly 16,000 new student credit hours within a resource-constrained environment while tripling research expenditures. He worked with 106 faculty and staff and 2,800 students served by the departments of Community and Environmental Health, Nursing, Radiologic Sciences and Respiratory Care. His tenure has been distinguished by growth in research productivity and new nursing graduate programs at the master’s and doctorate levels.

Dunnagan also worked at Montana State University as the Health and Human Development department head. In that role he oversaw diverse units such as Community Health, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Counseling. He grew research expenditures by a third and expanded student recruitment. He holds a Doctor of Education from the University of Kentucky.
Okagaki oversees programs at Delaware in entrepreneurship, study abroad, academic program reviews and support for international students. Prior to this role, she served as dean of the College of Education and Human Development. Before joining the University of Delaware, Okagaki was commissioner for education research in the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education. Under her leadership, the center nearly doubled its research grant activities and launched several innovative research programs. She also served as the first IES deputy director for science. In that role, she established the scientific peer review procedures for grant application review. Throughout her tenure at IES, Okagaki supported the development of research training programs – graduate and postdoctoral training programs and summer institutes – to build the nation's capacity to conduct rigorous education research.

Okagaki earned her doctoral degree in developmental psychology from Cornell University. In addition to Delaware, she has held appointments at Purdue University, Yale University, Cornell University and the University of Houston.

For more detailed candidate information, visit http://bit.ly/2tvTc5h.

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**Contact:** Chris Comer, provost search committee chair, UM College of Humanities and Sciences dean, 406-243-2632, christopher.comer@umontana.edu.
UM to Award Honorary Doctorate to Sheila Stearns

March 09, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will award an Honorary Doctorate in Education to Sheila M. Stearns during its May 12 Commencement exercises.

On March 9, the state Board of Regents unanimously approved the request for the honor put forth by UM President Seth Bodnar.

“Sheila Stearns has been an ardent supporter and public servant in education for the entirety of her professional career,” Bodnar said. “Her name is synonymous with education, passion, excellence and service. She deserves this honor, and I couldn’t be more pleased.”

Stearns served in a variety of senior administrative positions in higher education, including vice president of the University of Montana, chancellor of UM Western, president of Wayne State College in Nebraska and commissioner of higher education for Montana. As Montana’s longest-serving commissioner of higher
education, Stearns expanded educational opportunities for Montanans. She is lauded for her effective communication with board members, university presidents and state leaders in education, as well as with the Montana Legislature.

Stearns holds a bachelor’s degree in history, a master’s degree in history and a doctorate in educational administration and supervision, all from UM.

Stearns initially was nominated for the honorary doctorate in fall 2016, which would have been considered by the Board of Regents in early 2017. But by that time, she was serving as UM president after Royce Engstrom. As president, Stearns provided a steadying influence, working on enrollment and budget challenges, and initiating a program prioritization process for academic programs and administrative services.

Mary-Ann Bowman, chair of UM Faculty Senate, expressed appreciation for Stearns’ service to the University during that time.

“She came in at a very tender moment in our history and brought invaluable insights, experience and leadership,” Bowman said.

While serving as president, Stearns’ honorary doctorate nomination was put on hold. After the conclusion of her tenure as president, Adrea Lawrence, interim dean of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, resubmitted the nomination. Lawrence said she is pleased to see Stearns’ nomination unanimously approved by the board.

“Dr. Stearns is one of our most distinguished alumnae, and her contributions and impact to education in Montana are extraordinary,” she said. “This is a well-deserved honor.”

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**Contact:** Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Award Honorary Doctorate to Sheila Stearns - UM News - University Of Montana

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UM's Irish Studies, Friends of Irish Studies Host Events to Celebrate Heritage

March 09, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana's Irish Studies program and Friends of Irish Studies will host several events during March in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Events taking place Saturday, March 17, include:

- **St. Patrick's Mass**: 8 a.m., St. Francis Xavier Church, located at 420 W. Pine St. Pastor Joseph Carver will preside. The service will include Irish hymns, prayers and readings. A reception will follow in Reidy Hall.

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade**: 11 a.m. lineup; noon departure. The parade will depart from Spruce Street and Higgins Avenue and travel over the river to Beckwith Avenue. The grand marshal of the parade is Chris Behan. Entry forms are available at the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce and must be submitted by Thursday, March 15.

- **St. Patrick's Day Irish whiskey tasting**: 2-6 p.m., Rhino Bar. Sample eight whiskeys from Ireland's 3,000-year-old tradition of distillation. The cost per person is $35.

- **Carousel rides**: 2-4 p.m. Free rides for kids at A Carousel for Missoula. This event is sponsored by the Phil Maloney Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.
Great Irish Gathering, banquet and auction: 6 p.m., Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown. Join old friends and make new ones during a social night of food and drink, music and dance. Proceeds from the event support the Irish Studies program and promote Irish culture in the community. The evening is sponsored by Friends of Irish Studies. Tickets to the dinner cost $30 and are available at the door or at http://www.friendsofirishstudies.com.

Irish Man and Woman of the Year: At the banquet and auction, the Irish Man and Woman of the Year will be honored for their contributions to their communities and heritage. This year’s recipients are John and Jodi Monahan. John is president of Friends of Irish Studies. During his term, the organization has grown to become the largest donor to UM’s Irish Studies program. The group currently is fundraising to endow a chair in Irish language and literature at UM. Jodi expresses her love of all things Irish through her artwork.

Also in March, the ongoing concert series “A Springtime of Irish Music and Song” continues in both Butte and Missoula.

On Friday, March 23, Liam Ó Maonlaí, master of the whistle, bodhrán and sean-nós singing, will play the Montana Tech Library Auditorium. On Saturday, March 24, he will play UM’s Recital Hall. Both concerts run from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Tickets for each performance cost $15 for general admission, $13 for members of the Friends of Irish Studies and seniors and $5 for students. They are available online at http://hs.umt.edu/friends-irish-studies/stories/spring-music.php and at Rockin Rudy’s in Missoula or in Butte at Cavanaugh’s County Celtic and the Granite Mountain Bank.

Contact: Traolach Ó Riordáin, UM Irish Studies program director, 406-243-6359, traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Honor Pioneering African-American Mathematician

March 09, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will honor Gloria Hewitt, one of the first African-American women in the United States to receive a doctorate in mathematics and UM professor emeritus, on Monday, March 19.

UM’s Department of Mathematical Sciences will host a colloquium in the Math Building at 3 p.m. and a reception recognizing Hewitt in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room at 4 p.m.
The colloquium will feature a keynote by Edray Herber Goins, president of the National Association of Mathematicians, titled “Yes, Even You Can Bend It Like Beckham,” and will use sports to explain both experimental and mathematical analyses.

Hewitt taught at UM for 38 years and served as chair of the math department from 1995 to 1999. She served on numerous national committees and panels, including the Mathematical Association of America, the National Science Foundation, the National Security Agency, the College Board and the National Academy of Sciences.

During her UM tenure, Hewitt raised more than $500,000 in gifts to endow new programs supporting undergraduate and graduate mathematics students. She received a 1999 UM Academic Administrator award for her work and was profiled in the 1998 book “Notable Women in Mathematics.” She retired from UM in 1999, and the Montana University System Board of Regents named her a professor emeritus.

To celebrate Hewitt’s many accomplishments and strong leadership in mathematics, UM and the University of Washington are creating scholarships in her name. Both will be formally announced at the reception following the colloquium. Fundraising is underway for UM’s Gloria C. Hewitt Graduate Scholarship in Mathematical Sciences, which provides support for master’s and doctoral students in mathematics with a preference for students from underrepresented minorities.

To support the scholarship, call Marci Bozeman, senior director of development in UM’s College of Humanities and Sciences, at 406-243-2646 or email marci.bozeman@umontana.edu. For more information on the event, call Emily Stone, chair of the UM Department of Mathematical Sciences, at 406-243-5365 or email emily.stone@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Marci Bozeman, senior director of development, UM College of Humanities and Sciences, 406-243-2646, marci.bozeman@supportum.org; Emily Stone, chair, UM Department of Mathematical Sciences, 406-243-5365, emily.stone@umontana.edu.
Revered Social Critic to Present ‘Slouching Towards Utopia’ at UM

March 08, 2018

MISSOULA – An award-winning critic hailed as “one of a handful of public intellectuals who are keeping the critical spirit alive in a time of stupefying complacency,” will present a lecture and seminar at the University of Montana as part of the 2017-18 President’s Lecture Series.

George Scialabba will present the Ezio Cappadocia Memorial Lecture on Politics and History, “Slouching Towards Utopia,” at 8 p.m. Monday, March 12, in the Dennison Theatre. He also will present the seminar “Last Men and Women” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. the same day in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. Both events are free and open to the public.

As a freelance book reviewer and political commentator, Scialabba shares his views on the “moral consensus in
plutocratic America” which he argues requires alteration if we want to have a “rational” and “humane” future.

After studying history and literature at Harvard University in the 1960s and earning a master’s degree in intellectual history at Columbia University in 1972, Scialabba pursued writing in his free time while employed as a substitute teacher, social worker and a Harvard University building manager.


When he retired from Harvard in 2015, the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts, declared the date “George Scialabba Day.” Speakers including Thomas Frank, Barbara Ehrenreich and Noam Chomsky converged on Harvard Square to pay tribute to him. Since retiring, he has been writing a book column for The Baffler.

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

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Contact: Richard Drake, UM history professor and President’s Lecture Series organizer, 406-243-2981, richard.drake@umontana.edu.
Revered Social Critic to Present ‘Slouching Towards Utopia’ at UM - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Runner and walkers of all ages are invited to get their glow on during the sixth annual Griz Glow 5K Fun Run at 8 p.m. Friday, March 16, at the University of Montana Golf Course, located at 515 South Ave. E.

Registration costs $30, and children 10 and under are free. Participants will receive a race T-shirt, a reflective race number and LED bracelets and necklaces at check-in. Register online at http://bit.ly/2tg1oqj by noon March 16.

Participants are encouraged to wear whites and brights for the glow-in-the-dark themed event. Prerace festivities begin during check-in at 7 p.m. with free face-painting, a blacklight photo booth, music and dancing. Racers may purchase food and beverages from the Iron Griz restaurant until 9 p.m., and on-course entertainment will feature eight Glow Zones, including a noodle slip ‘n’ slide, blacklight tunnel and more.

This year’s Glow Zone hosts are Phi Delta Theta, the UM Circus Club, the Montana National Guard, Global Grizzlies, the UM Athletic Training Program, UM Advocates, UM Campus Recreation Intramural Sports and Orangetheory Fitness Missoula.

Proceeds from Griz Glow support UM’s Campus Recreation Youth Camps program. Funds raised help make Youth Camps one-of-a-kind experience and aid campers whose families cannot afford tuition. For more information on the
Griz Glow Fun Run to Light up the Night - UM News - University Of Montana

program, visit http://www.umt.edu/crec/YouthCamps/default.php.

For more information on the Griz Glow Fun Run or to volunteer at the event, visit http://www.umt.edu/grizglow/default.php.

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Contact: Natalie Hiller-Claridge, senior assistant director of programs and development, UM Campus Recreation, 406-243-5295, campusrec.youthcamps@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Student entrepreneurs working with the Blackstone LaunchPad at the University Montana will benefit from a new partnership between the Blackstone Charitable Foundation and Techstars, a global startup accelerator and entrepreneurial network. The new effort was announced March 7 at SXSW EDU in Austin, Texas.

As one of just 20 Blackstone LaunchPads across the globe, the Blackstone LaunchPad at the University of Montana boasts over 1,000 student and community entrepreneurs and their mentors in its membership. The organization helps students, faculty, staff and alumni explore entrepreneurship as a viable career path.

UM President Seth Bodnar said UM’s ability to leverage Techstars’ proven frameworks will create a competitive advantage for Montana’s entrepreneurs on a global level.

“Today’s announcement will provide current and future students of the University of Montana with access to world-class expertise and resources to help them pursue excellence and innovation,” Bodnar said. “I am excited about the potential for this partnership between the Blackstone LaunchPad and Techstars to help our students translate their ideas and passions into ventures that help solve complex, interdisciplinary, global challenges.”
Blackstone-aided entrepreneurs at UM will now use the Techstars network of over 10,000 mentors, global entrepreneurial events, and world-renowned content and startup services, including tools for fundraising, job placement and recruitment.

Paul Gladen, director of Blackstone LaunchPad at UM, said these opportunities for entrepreneurs are rare in general, let alone in collegiate environments, so this is a tremendous opportunity to set UM apart from other universities across the country and the world.

“We’re thrilled by this new partnership, which will significantly expand the expertise and resources available to UM’s student entrepreneurs,” Gladen said. “The Techstars relationship both supplements and complements our existing entrepreneurial program, networks and resources. This truly affirms UM as a place where innovation and entrepreneurship happen.”

As Missoula’s startup ecosystem continues to grow, he said, partnerships like these are crucial in further supporting entrepreneurs. According to a Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation report that was released in 2017, Missoula ranks ninth-highest and Bozeman 12th-highest in startup rates among 394 areas in the U.S.

“Techstars' impact will be tangible as Montana’s innovative leaders, at student and professional levels, continue to emerge during this exciting, upward trajectory,” Gladen said.

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Additional Quotes:

**U.S. Sen. John Tester:**

“The Blackstone LaunchPad is providing the best and brightest in Montana with the opportunity to start and grow their business right here in Big Sky Country,” said Tester, who helped bring the Blackstone LaunchPad to Montana in 2013. “This initiative has made a profound impact on Montana's economy, and today's announcement will strengthen the pipeline for future business leaders from the University of Montana and Montana Tech to Main Streets across our state.”

**U.S. Sen. Steve Daines:**

“After working for a Montana tech company that created 500 local jobs, I know Montana is fertile ground for tech entrepreneurs. This partnership will continue to put Montana on the map as a tech hub and create good-paying jobs here at home.”

**U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte:**

“Entrepreneurship is the engine that drives our nation's economy. The partnership between the Blackstone LaunchPad and Techstars will further nurture and encourage the enterprising spirit here at UM that has defined our great nation. I look forward to seeing more innovative ideas emerge from UM students and alums that will create greater opportunity, create more well-paying jobs, and increase prosperity here in Montana and throughout our
Ken Fichtler, chief business development officer, Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development

“The partnership between the Blackstone LaunchPads and Techstars is a phenomenal boost to Montana’s entrepreneurs and will serve to elevate their access to best-in-class mentorship, as well as other support resources. One of the hardest parts of starting a business can be finding qualified advisers who can help you navigate challenging decisions. This announcement essentially removes that barrier, and we at the Governor’s Office of Economic Development couldn’t be more excited to have more mentors and the proven Techstars infrastructure serving Montana’s startup ecosystem.”

Jeff Fee, interim CEO of Missoula Economic Partnership

“Blackstone LaunchPad at UM is one of the more valuable resources available to Missoula’s entrepreneurs, and the Missoula Economic Partnership is thrilled by the increased access and opportunities a partnership with Techstars promises to our thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem.”

Christian Henderson, Montana High Tech Business Alliance executive director

“Blackstone LaunchPad has helped launch and mentor countless startups in Montana, including GeoFli and Montana Root Applications. This new partnership with Techstars ensures the Blackstone LaunchPads at the University of Montana and Montana State University will continue to be a resource for innovative entrepreneurs for years to come.”

Les Craig, Next Frontier Capital partner

“With the close of our second fund, Next Frontier Capital is excited to continue partnering with the University of Montana’s efforts in supporting entrepreneurs. Relevant programing, like Techstars, represents a meaningful opportunity to accelerate ventures in our geography and it will continue to promote the rapid growth of Montana businesses and the economy.”

Pat LaPointe, Frontier Angels managing director

“From an angel investing perspective, TechStars has been a great source of high-quality early-stage companies for many years, and their network of mentors and resources can really accelerate matching Montana founders with experienced people who can help them reach the next level.”

Dawn McGee, Goodworks Ventures CEO

“Having invested in a company – MeetMindful – that successfully completed the Techstars program in Boulder, we have seen firsthand the value Techstars participants receive through a rigorously structured mentorship program. The University of Montana’s Blackstone LaunchPad played a significant role in the early stage success of one of our portfolio companies, COBREW, and we see the collaboration with Techstars as a tremendous benefit to founders and our startup ecosystem.”
Joe Fanguy, Blackfoot vice president for strategic development

“Blackfoot is proud to be a leader in Montana’s rapidly growing tech ecosystem, which will be greatly enhanced through the new partnership between Techstars, Blackstone LaunchPad and the budding entrepreneurs of our great state.”

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Contact: Morgan Slemberger, marketing and operations manager, UM Blackstone LaunchPad, 406-243-5723, morgan.slemberger@mso.umt.edu.
UM Associate Professor to Present on Medicinal Plants for Women’s Health

March 07, 2018

MISSOULA – In honor of Women’s History Month, University of Montana Associate Professor Rosalyn LaPier will host a presentation on medicinal plants for women’s health from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 12.

LaPier will discuss Montana native plants traditionally used for women’s health, highlighting some medicines used at different life stages including puberty, motherhood and menopause. The lecture is free and open to the public. It will take place in UM’s Payne Family Native American Center. Soup and tea will be served at 6:30 p.m. for a $5 donation.

LaPier is an associate professor of environmental studies, a Blackfeet ethnobotanist and recently received UM’s Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment.

The lecture will be held in conjunction with the Red Dress Workshop, organized by UM undergraduate student Willow Kipp. From 5 to 7 p.m. workshop participants will sew a red ribbon skirt to wear in solidarity with missing and murdered indigenous women (#MMIW). Registration for Red Dress Workshop is now closed, as all available spots have been filled.
Kipp is a Native American studies major and environmental studies minor. She is a citizen of the Shoshone-Bannock Nation and descendent of the Blackfeet Nation. Funds raised at the event will support the MMIW Awareness Dance Special at the 50th Kyiyo Powwow at UM April 20-21.

The evening’s events are sponsored by UM’s Environmental Studies Program and the native plant stewardship and ethnobotany internship.

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**Note to media:** Members of the media are invited to attend and photograph the Red Dress workshop. Professor LaPier’s presentation is free and open to the public.

**Contact:** Rosalyn LaPier, associate professor, UM Environmental Studies, 406-241-3731, rosalyn.lapier@mso.umt.edu.
Wilderness Institute Plans UM Lectures

March 07, 2018

MISSOULA – The Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana will present two lectures in March that address land management issues facing Europe, Chile and the U.S. Both events are free and open to the public.

Verena Gruber with the European Wilderness Society will present “Is There Wilderness Left in Europe?” from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 8, in University Center Room 332.

Participants are invited to bring lunch and listen as Gruber discusses definitions of wilderness in Europe, the organizations that protect wilderness and management differences between the U.S. and Europe.

Laurel Genzoli, North American program director for Ríos to Rivers, will discuss “From Ríos to Rivers: Sharing Lessons from the Klamath River with Chilean Patagonia” from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, in UC 332.

Chile is now constructing large hydro-dams, while dams on Oregon and California’s Klamath River are slated for removal. Youth from Chile and the Klamath Basin recently spent three weeks in each other’s homelands, learning from one another about ecology, politics, people and the future of those rivers. This talk will explore why dam-building continues in Chile while dams are being removed in North America.
The Wilderness Institute is based in UM's W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation. To learn more visit http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wi/.

Contact: Joanna Campbell, assistant director, UM Wilderness Institute, 406-243-6916, joanna.campbell@mso.umt.edu.
UM Creative Writing to Host ‘Writing @ Work’ Conference

March 07, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Creative Writing program will bring together writers from all walks of life during the “Writing @ Work” conference from noon to 5 p.m. Friday, March 16, in the University Center Theater.

“Writing @ Work” is an afternoon of community and collaboration for working writers, world-class editors, publishers, agents, students and anyone interested in the power of writing and how to build a life around it.

“This year, the ‘Writing @ Work’ conference has a magnitude of excellence unparalleled for programs of our size,” said Debra Magpie Earling, director of Creative Writing at UM.

During the conference, UM will host Gary Fisketjon, renowned editor and the vice president of Knopf publishing. He has edited Raymond Carver, Tobias Wolff, Richard Ford, Haruki Murakami, Donna Tartt, Cormac McCarthy and UM’s Bill Kittredge, among others.

Sarah Bowlin, an agent at Aevitas Creative Management, will join him to discuss the publishing world. Before becoming an agent, Bowlin spent a decade as an editor of literary fiction and nonfiction at Riverhead Books and...
most recently at Henry Holt & Company, editing numerous acclaimed writers.

Other writers, editors and publishers, along with entrepreneurs, will discuss professional aspects of the writing life and share advice on how to make writing a career. Panels and discussions will include topics ranging from writing in the West and the basics of getting published to women’s perspectives on life and craft.

The conference is free and open to the public. The schedule follows:

- **Noon to 12:10 p.m.** – Opening remarks: Earling
- **12:10 to 1 p.m.** – “Publishing & the New West,” Bowlin; Brian Schott, editor and publisher of the Whitefish Review
- **1:10 to 2 p.m.** – “Two Writers, Two Perspectives,” Sarah Aswell, comedian and writer; Pete Fromm, writer
- **2:10 p.m. to 3 p.m.** – “Making Writing Your Business,” Chris Dombrowski, writer and director of Beargrass Writing Retreat; Paul Gladen, director of Blackstone LaunchPad; Timothy O’Leary, entrepreneur and writer; Jennifer Sheets, writer, MFA student and creator of Storysquares App
- **3:10 to 4 p.m.** – “ Legendary Editor: A Conversation with Gary Fisketjon,” Fisketjon
- **4:10 to 5 p.m.** – “Women, Writing, Work, Wisdom,” Aswell; Heather Cahoon, policy scholar and writer; Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs, professor at Seattle University, writer and commissioner for Washington State Arts Commission; Jenny Montgomery, writer and owner of Montgomery Distillery; Sheets; Susanna Sonnenberg, writing teacher and writer

“One of my favorite parts of the conference will be the ‘Women, Writing, Work, Wisdom’ panel,” Earling said. “Judy Blunt is going to be the – don’t want to say moderator – I want to say instigator or provocateur. There may be a trigger warning, but it’s going to be fun.”

To view a full schedule with biographies, visit [http://bit.ly/2Cq3uHA](http://bit.ly/2Cq3uHA). For more information call UM Creative Writing Program Coordinator Karin Schalm at 406-243-5267 or email karin.schalm@umontana.edu.

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**Note to Media:** Images of all presenters are online at [https://umt.box.com/s/gxn1e04nkh9vxo4so86oaacwe5bj19t](https://umt.box.com/s/gxn1e04nkh9vxo4so86oaacwe5bj19t)

**Contact:** Karin Schalm, program coordinator, UM Creative Writing, 406-243-5267, [karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu](mailto:karin.schalm@mso.umt.edu).
UM Creative Writing to Host ‘Writing @ Work’ Conference - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Law School Brings Home Moot Court Competition Awards

March 06, 2018

MISSOULA – Students from the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana received accolades at this year's Jeffrey G. Miller National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, held on Feb. 22-23 at Pace University in White Plains, New York.

The team of Nathan Burke and Lowell Chandler, both second-year law students from Missoula, competed at the 2018 event and received the Fossil Creek Watchers Best Brief for the environmental side.
Facing the University of Colorado and the University of North Carolina in the first round, Burke was selected as best oralist. In round two, they faced the University of California, Davis, and Emory University. In the final preliminary round against the University of Maryland and the University of Pittsburgh, Lowell was selected as best oralist. On the strength of their exceptional brief and outstanding oral presentations, they advanced to the quarterfinal round.

More than 130 students from 53 law schools competed at Pace in 2018. This year’s fact pattern addressed whether a state law requiring coal ash pond remediation was properly included in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, and whether the EPA’s 1980 waste treatment exclusion grandfathered existing ash ponds impounding waters of the U.S. from Clean Water Act jurisdiction.

“Much of the team’s success is owed to the many attorneys in Missoula who volunteered their time and expertise in helping prepare Nathan and Lowell for this competition,” said Heidi Fanslow, the UM faculty coach of the environmental law moot court team. “Thanks to all involved for your dedication and help. We are proud of how our students performed against other excellent law students from across the nation.”

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Contact: Sara Kryder, director of communications and events, UM Alexander Blewett III School of Law, 406-243-5730, sara.kryder@umontana.edu.
Hands-on Activities Planned for Family Science Night in Ronan

March 05, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s spectrUM Discovery Area and We Are Montana in the Classroom initiative will share hands-on activities at the Ronan Family Science Night from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8, at Ronan Event Center, located at Ronan Middle School.

The annual science night draws hundreds of children and community members each year. At this year’s event, spectrUM and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes’ Education Department will bring the Kwul’l’tkin Maker Truck, a mobile makerspace featuring making and tinkering activities that weave together STEM and culture.

Funded by a National Science Foundation EAGER grant, the Kwul’l’tkin Maker Truck was co-created by CSK Tribal Education, spectrUM, spectrUM’s SciNation advisory group and tribal elders.

Role models from UM’s We Are Montana in the Classroom initiative will share hands-on activities designed to inspire students of all ages about higher education and career pathways. Sherrill Brown, associate professor in UM’s Skaggs School of Pharmacy and director of the UM Drug Information Service, will lead an activity in which visitors make and take home their own lip balm. Patricia Duce, a lecturer in UM’s computer science department, will
Hands-on Activities Planned for Family Science Night in Ronan - UM News - University Of Montana

guide visitors in designing their own computer program. Rosalyn La Pier, associate professor in environmental studies, will lead a native plant seeding activity, and Aaron Thomas, associate professor in chemistry and director of Indigenous Research and STEM Education at UM, will lead hands-on chemistry activities.

Throughout the year, both in school and out, spectrUM and its SciNation advisory group collaborate on an array of programs designed to power a homegrown, Native STEM workforce on the Flathead Reservation. In addition to Family Science Nights, programming includes a Science Learning Tent at the Arlee Celebration and Elmo's Standing Arrow Powwow, “Science Bytes” that embed hands-on STEM activities and role models at summer free meal sites, the K’wul ‘Itkin Maker Truck, and on May 19 a Tech Challenge, part of a U.S. Department of Education-funded collective-impact effort led by Salish Kootenai College.

SpectrUM and SciNation’s innovative, collective-impact approach have garnered awards from the Montana Indian Education Association, the Noyce Foundation, the Simons Foundation and the Coalition for the Public Understanding of Science.

“SpectrUM and the Broader Impacts Group take a community-based, co-creative approach to all of our efforts,” said Holly Truitt, director of spectrUM and BIG. “We’re finding that when we work collectively with like-minded partners, we can multiply our impact.”

Now in its 10th year, spectrUM Discovery Area is UM’s hands-on science center, serving more than 200,000 Montanans annually through in-museum and statewide mobile programming. We Are Montana in the Classroom connects Montana K-12 students with UM faculty members and graduate students, with the goal of putting students on the fast track to higher education and fulfilling careers.

We Are Montana in the Classroom and spectrUM are part of BIG, which takes a community-based, co-creative approach to engaging with rural and tribal communities across Montana, with deep collective-impact initiatives in Missoula, the Bitterroot Valley and on the Flathead Reservation.

To date, BIG programs have reached K-12 students in three-quarters of Montana’s counties and on all seven of the state’s American Indian reservations. BIG is supported by an array of local and national funding sources, including the National Science Foundation, Montana NSF EPSCoR, NASA, the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Jane S. Heman Foundation and the Martin Family Foundation.

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Contact: Holly Truitt, director, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4872, holly.truitt@umontana.edu.
UM to Screen Two Films on Biodiverse Mexican Wetlands

UM News

March 05, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host a free screening of two movies about the Cuatro Cienegas wetland systems of Mexico.

The short films, “Cuatro Cienegas” and “The Long Alchemy of Becoming,” will screen from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, in the North Underground Lecture Hall.

The wetlands in northern Mexico are a hotspot of biodiversity, home to more than 150 species found nowhere else on Earth.

Featuring spectacular cinematography and original music scores, the films bring science and art together while reflecting on years of cooperation by international scientific teams to unlock the secrets of the diversity of life found in this desert oasis.

Two leading scientists who have been a part of an international team studying the wetlands will attend the UM event and lead a Q-&-A after the films are shown. Valeria Souza is a professor at the National Autonomous
University of Mexico and an expert on how new species can arise. She produced “Cuatro Cienegas.” Jim Elser is the director of UM’s Flathead Lake Biological Station and a leading expert on aquatic ecology. He produced “The Long Alchemy of Becoming.”

The event is sponsored by the Division of Biological Sciences at UM.

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Contact: Jim Elser, director, UM Flathead Lake Biological Station, jim.elser@flbs.umt.edu.
UM News

UM to Celebrate International Women’s Day with Lecture

March 05, 2018

MISSOULA – State Sen. Diane Sands will deliver a lecture about the legacy of Montana’s first female state legislator on Thursday, March 8, at the University of Montana for International Women’s Day.

Sands will speak on “Maggie Smith Hathaway and Montana” from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the K. Ross Toole Archives on the fourth floor of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library. The talk is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m.

Hathaway, from Ravalli County, was one of the first two women to serve in the Montana State House of Representatives in 1916, and she helped write the first legislation in the nation advocating equal pay for equal work for women. During World War I, she employed women on her ranch as men went off to fight overseas. She also championed child welfare and women’s rights, including suffrage, and won the eight-hour workday for women.

Sands served in Montana’s House of Representatives from 1996 to 2012, and, after retiring, won Senate District 49 seat in 2014. She created the first Women’s Resource Center at UM in 1968 and has fought for social justice issues, abortion rights, gay rights, Native American education and more.
Sands has worked as development director for The Museum at Fort Missoula, executive director of the Montana Women’s Lobby, the director of two Youth Conservation Corps programs, project director for the Montana Community Foundation and interim director of Missoula’s Partnership Health Center.

Sands’ talk is co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women Missoula and UM’s Department of History, School of Social Work and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies program.

For more information call G.G. Weix from AAUW Missoula at 406-529-7191 or email gg.weix@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** G.G. Weix, professor, UM Department of Anthropology, 406-529-7191, gg.weix@mso.umt.edu.
UM Research Examines Link Between Plant Traits, Ecosystem Productivity

March 05, 2018

MISSOULA – A team of scientists at the University of Montana has discovered that climate change will significantly impact plant traits and distributions in the coming decades, affecting global ecosystem productivity.

Nima Madani, who graduated from UM in December with a doctorate in systems ecology, led the study. Scientific Reports recently published the team’s results.
Species usually respond to climate change either through extinction or resilience, but sometimes also through altering their physical traits or relocating to regions with more suitable environmental conditions.

“Altered plant community distributions may result in changes in ecosystem productivity that significantly impact ecosystem goods and services to human populations and other species,” Madani said.

The research team analyzed global observations of plant community traits including tree height, canopy leaf area and seed mass, along with climate and satellite data records to predict changes in plant traits under current and projected future climate conditions. Results showed that plant traits are highly sensitive to climate variability such as temperature and precipitation, and that global warming is driving widespread changes in both plant traits and vegetation growth.

By the year 2070, the science shows tropical and arid ecosystems will become more suitable for plants with relatively lower canopy height, leaf area and seed mass, while far northern latitudes will favor woody and taller plants. Ecosystem productivity will decline in the tropics and enhance in the higher northern latitudes. Some recent examples of this include increases in shrub dominance in the tundra, declines in taller, larger diameter trees in California and increases in shorter trees in the tropics.

“Until now, the significant role of physical plant traits and their influence on ecosystem productivity has been neglected in many global earth system models,” said John Kimball, UM professor of systems ecology and a contributor to the research.

To read the full article, visit https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-21172-9.

Contact: John Kimball, professor of systems ecology, UM Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences, 406-243-6706, john.kimball@umontana.edu.
UM Law School to Host Montana Stream Access Law Symposium

March 05, 2018

MISSOULA – The Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana will host a special gathering to commemorate Montana’s extraordinary Stream Access Law. “Celebrating a High Water Mark: A Montana Stream Access Law Symposium” will take place 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday, March 16, at the Blewett School of Law.

In 1984, the Montana Supreme Court ruled in two separate cases that the public trust doctrine and the Montana Constitution protect the public’s right to use Montana waters for recreational purposes. Subsequently, the Montana Legislature adopted Montana’s Stream Access Law, giving Montanans robust recreational access to rivers and streams for fishing, floating, swimming and other water-related activities.

Passing this bill was no small feat. With Bozeman attorney Jim Goetz at the helm, members of the Montana Coalition for Stream Access filed a lawsuit against landowner Dennis Curran in 1980, asserting that the public had the right to float, fish and recreate between the high-water marks of the Dearborn River. The coalition also filed a complaint against landowner Lowell Hildreth, asserting recreational rights on the Beaverhead River. Both landowners had denied public access to sections of the rivers running through their respective properties.
Three years later, the Montana Supreme Court ruled in favor of recreational use in both cases. Following the decisions, a coalition of groups representing landowners, agricultural interests, conservationists and recreationists worked together to draft House Bill 265. Commonly known as the Stream Access Law, HB 265 was passed by the Legislature in 1985.

“In Montana, the waters of the state are held by the state in a sacred public trust, for the benefit of all its people,” Goetz said. “The ability of all Montanans to use our wonderful rivers and streams is woven into our very fabric. I am proud to have played some small role in making sure those public rights are forever protected.”

Goetz will open the March 16 event by telling the story of events leading up to the Curran and Hildreth decisions. Gov. Steve Bullock will kick things off with welcoming remarks, followed by a roundtable of drafters and stakeholders who crafted the original stream access bill. Legislators and representatives from key organizations such as the Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Montana Trout Unlimited, Montana Wildlife Federation, and the Boone & Crockett Club will share key memories and lessons, including what ingredients catalyzed their decision to work together and what attributed to their success.

Helena attorney Ron Waterman, who represented the Stockgrowers Association in the stream access negotiations, will moderate the roundtable.

“Montanans value their rights to access the public waters of the state and are prepared to vote to defend those rights,” Waterman said. “However, many citizens are not aware that this law was not always the codified law of Montana; nor do they realize how the law came into being. This fact – plus the fact that many people involved in the creation of this law are starting to pass away – means the time is right to preserve this important information; the symposium and the roundtable are a step in working to preserve this information for future generations.”

Additional panels during the event will cover subsequent developments in stream access law, the legal ethics of advising landowners and recreation clients, and issues on the horizon such as climate implications, the role of tribal water governance and instream flow.

Admission to the event is free to the public, with an option to purchase lunch. The registration fee for lawyers seeking Continuing Legal Education credits is $40. For more information or to register, visit www.umt.edu/montana-stream-access.

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Contact: Sara Kryder, director of communications and events, UM Alexander Blewett III School of Law, 406-243-5730, sara.kryder@umontana.edu.

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Get Involved
Submit a Calendar Event
UM Law School to Host Montana Stream Access Law Symposium - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – “Motion,” one of the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area’s popular traveling exhibits, will visit Charlo on Monday, March 5.

Featuring hands-on exhibits and activities exploring the wonders of physics and engineering, “Motion” will transform the Charlo School gymnasium into an interactive science museum. Highlights of the exhibition include a larger-than-life spinning turntable, a gravity well and spectrUM’s popular flight simulator. This tour stop is powered by Charlo School.

Families and friends are invited to explore the exhibit at a free Family Science Night from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Charlo School gymnasium. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Education Department’s Kʷul ‘I’tkin Maker Truck, a mobile makerspace that weaves together STEM and culture, also will participate in the Family Science Night with a drum-making activity.

Funded by a National Science Foundation EAGER grant, the Kʷul ‘I’tkin Maker Truck was co-created by spectrUM, CSK Tribal Education, spectrUM’s SciNation advisory group and tribal elders.
SpectrUM and its SciNation advisory group collaborate on an array of programs designed to generate a homegrown, Native STEM workforce on the Flathead Reservation. In addition to Family Science Nights, their year-round programming includes a Science Learning Tent at the Arlee Celebration and Elmo's Standing Arrow Powwow, “Science Bytes” that embed hands-on STEM activities and role models at summer free-meal sites, the Kul’I’tkin Maker Truck and, this May 19, a Tech Challenge, part of a U.S. Department of Education-funded collective impact led by Salish Kootenai College.

SpectrUM and SciNation’s innovative collective-impact approach has garnered awards from the Montana Indian Education Association, the Noyce Foundation, the Simons Foundation and the Coalition for the Public Understanding of Science.

“By linking arms with the Tribes, SciNation, local K-12 schools and other STEM and higher education champions on the Flathead Reservations, we’re co-creating potentially transformative learning experiences that put students on the fast track to fulfilling careers in their home community and beyond,” said spectrUM Director Holly Truitt. “This collective effort is accomplishing what none of our organizations could on our own.”

Now in its 10th year, spectrUM Discovery Area is UM’s hands-on science center, serving more than 200,000 Montanans annually through in-museum and statewide mobile programming. SpectrUM is part of UM’s Broader Impacts Group, which harnesses the University’s research and creative scholarship to foster social mobility and a vibrant, homegrown workforce for Montana.

BIG and spectrUM are supported by an array of local and national funding sources, including the National Science Foundation, Montana NSF EPSCoR, NASA, the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Jane S. Heman Foundation and the Martin Family Foundation.

In Missoula, the public can visit spectrUM at 812 Toole Ave. from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person.

For more information or to book a school visit, call spectrum Head of Educational Programs Jessie Herbert-Meney at 406-243-4828 or visit http://spectrum.umt.edu/.

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Contact: Jessie Herbert-Meney, head of educational programs, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
Special UM Event at MMAC to Feature Outstanding Ceramic Artists at Work

March 02, 2018

MISSOULA – The Montana Museum of Art & Culture at the University of Montana is presenting “Decades: Ceramics in the Permanent Collection” co-curated by UM ceramics Professor Julia Galloway and MMAC Curator of Art Jeremy Canwell. The exhibition runs through May 26.

Renowned guest artists Clay Studio Executive Director Shalene Valenzuela and MSU art Associate Professor Josh DeWeese will join UM art ceramics Associate Professor Trey Hill to demonstrate their own working processes from 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, in the Masquer Theatre of UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

Gallery interpretation of “Decades: Ceramics in the Permanent Collection” will follow at 5 p.m. in the Meloy Gallery with co-curators Galloway and Canwell. Refreshments will be served.

The exhibition surveys the permanent collection from the beginning of the American ceramics movement up to the present moment, examining formal and thematic developments since its onset in the mid-1950s.

“Observing the MMAC ceramics collection through the decades reveals the great complexity of the field and the
great strides artists have made over the past 70 years,” Galloway said.

Beginning with collaborations by Peter and Henry Meloy and early works by Branson Stevenson and Peter Voulkos, the show highlights work that broke with clay’s decorative and utilitarian heritage to usher in what now is known as contemporary ceramics.

In the subsequent decades, artists like Rudy Autio, Tony Hepburn, Ken Little and Frances Senska turned toward a sculptural understanding of clay, guided more by the physical properties of the medium than principles of quality manufacture. These artists laid the groundwork for more whimsical work produced by artists in the 1980s, such as Tom Rippon and Douglas Baldwin.

Examples of their work appear alongside exploratory works by DeWeese, Valenzuela, David Shaner, David Smith and Kurt Weiser. Some of the most daring advances in artistic sensibility and glazing and firing techniques were made in this era, and the works on view will excite both ceramics enthusiasts and newcomers to the clay medium.

More contemporary trends like the emergence of personal narrative and mythology will be on view in works by artists defining the field today, such as UM ceramics Professor Beth Lo and Hill, along with many recent graduates of UM’s own ceramics program, including Crista Ann Ames, Megan Bogonovich, Alex Kraft, Ryan Mitchell and Sue Tirrell.

“This exhibition is a testament to MMAC’s vision and foresight, and the collection represents the striking sophistication, inspiration and variety of ceramic art made in the state of Montana,” Lo said.

MMAC’s gallery hours are from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, and from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday. The museum is closed Sundays, Mondays and UM holidays. The museum is open to the public with a suggested $5 donation. Tours are available. Advance notice is appreciated. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/.

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Contact: Barbara Koostra, Suzanne and Bruce Crocker director, UM Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2020, barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu; Jeremy Canwell, MMAC curator of art, 406-243-2019, jeremy.canwell@mso.umt.edu.
Special UM Event at MMAC to Feature Outstanding Ceramic Artists at Work - UM News - University Of Montana

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News Archive
Events Calendar
University Relations
UM Dance Alumnus Returns as Guest Artist for ‘Dance in Concert’

March 02, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana welcomes back one of its own as a guest choreographer for the School of Theatre & Dance’s March production of “Dance in Concert.”

Missoula-area native Brian Gerke, who earned his bachelor’s degree from UM in 2016, choreographed...
the dance piece “On Jasper’s Farm,” and it will premiere during the concert, which takes the stage at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 8-10, and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 10, in the Montana Theatre in UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center.

Gerke began dancing in the living room of his parents’ house in Lolo. After graduating from Loyola Sacred Heart High School, unsure of his academic interests, yet supported by a full-ride scholarship to any university in Montana, his mentor Syann Stevens encouraged him to give dance a try. However, he was most inspired to begin his formal training at UM after seeing Janet Jackson’s “All For You” tour in the summer of 2001 – a graduation present from his brother. Gerke still loves to watch and learn from pop dance videos.

Gerke performed with Mo-Trans Dance and the Headwater Dance Company as a UM student under the direction of Amy Ragsdale and Karen Kaufmann, the producer of “Dance in Concert.”

Midway through earning his degree in dance at UM, Gerke realized he wanted to intensify his focus on dance, so he left Missoula for New York City during his junior year, where he met his “soul sister” and future collaborator, Steinunn Ketilsdottir.

Their friendship and artistic collaboration eventually led Gerke to Reykjavik, Iceland, where he established an internationally known touring company with Ketilsdottir and became the director of modern dance at the National Ballet Academy of Iceland, a guest professor at the Icelandic Arts University and a featured and award-winning soloist at the National Dance Company of Iceland.

Gerke is the only American to have earned the Icelandic Performing Arts Award for Dance Performer of the Year.

UM dance faculty invited Gerke back to Missoula to serve as a guest artist from 2011 to 2012, during which he choreographed “MEAT,” an original dance piece performed by 11 UM dancers. “MEAT” was adjudicated in the Northwest Regional Conference of the American College Dance Festival Association and selected as one of the pieces to be performed by UM dancers at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., at the National ACDFA Gala.
Gerke continued to perform and choreograph internationally until he left Europe in 2015 to continue his studies in dance, first at UM and currently as a master's student at the University of Utah. Most recently, he became a Certified Laban/Barteneiff Movement Analyst and a Registered International Somatic Movement Educator through the Integrated Movement Studies program.

Over the past year, Gerke has returned to Missoula three times to choreograph “On Jasper’s Farm” and will represent UM at the 2018 Northwest Regional Conference of the re-named American College Dance Association adjudicated concert in Boulder, Colorado, during spring break.

General admission tickets to “Dance in Concert” cost $20, while senior and student tickets cost $16. Admission for children ages 12 and under is $10. Tickets are available at the UMArts Box Office at 406-243-4581 from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or online at http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/.

For more information, call Kaufmann at 406-243-2870 or email karen.kaufmann@umontana.edu. A complete schedule of UM School of Theatre & Dance productions for the 2017-18 academic year is online at http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/Season/17-18-season.php.

Contact: Karen Kaufmann, dance professor, UM School of Theatre & Dance, 406-243-2870, karen.kaufmann@umontana.edu.
UM Dance Alumnus Returns as Guest Artist for ‘Dance in Concert’ - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Professor Elected Ecological Society of America Fellow

March 02, 2018

MISSOULA – The Ecological Society of America recently named Cory Cleveland, a professor in the Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences at the University of Montana, as one of its 2018 Fellows.

The ESA Fellowship program recognizes the many ways in which its members contribute to ecological research and discovery, communication, education and pedagogy, and management and policy. Fellows are members who have contributed to academics, government, nonprofit organizations and the broader society. They are elected for life.

“It is an honor to be selected as an ESA Fellow, and especially gratifying to have been nominated, supported and recognized by my colleagues and peers,” Cleveland said. “As scientists, we
get so little feedback on our work, and I think most of us only have a very vague sense of how or whether our contributions are even being noticed."

The ESA elected Cleveland for his substantial contributions to understanding carbon and nutrient cycling across multiple scales in terrestrial ecosystems. Cleveland teaches courses in soil science, ecosystem ecology, biogeochemistry and climate change science at UM. His research also focuses on biological diversity and ecosystem function, soil nutrient availability, and the effects of environmental change on tropical, temperate and high latitude ecosystems.

“I take great satisfaction in being formally recognized by the Society for my work,” Cleveland said. “It is among the most exciting achievements of my career so far.”

The ESA established its Fellows program in 2012 with the goal of honoring its members and supporting their competitiveness and advancement to leadership positions in the ESA and in broader society. ESA Fellows and Early Career Fellows are listed at https://www.esa.org/esa/about/esa-fellows-program/esa-fellows/.

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Contact: Cory Cleveland, professor and chair, UM Department of Ecosystems and Conservation Sciences, W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6018, cory.cleveland@umontana.edu.
UM Professor Elected Ecological Society of America Fellow - UM News - University Of Montana

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UM Graduate Student Wins Outstanding Presentation Award

March 01, 2018

MISSOULA – University of Montana graduate student Isabellah von Trapp recently received an Outstanding Student Presentation Award at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

Von Trapp is studying mountain block hydrology as she pursues a master’s degree from UM’s Geosciences program. Originally from Salem, Oregon, she plans to complete her degree this year.

AGU’s fall meeting is the largest international earth science meeting with more than 20,000 abstracts submitted in subjects ranging from space physics to global climate change. The award von Trapp received goes to less than 5 percent of student presenters from the best universities around the world.
“Finding out that I won an OSPA was quite an honor,” von Trapp said. “While at the conference, I had the opportunity to see some exceptional presentations from other students, so it was quite gratifying to hear that my work was on par with theirs.”

“This award highlights that the high-quality, high-impact research UM students are doing is being recognized at the highest levels,” said Payton Gardner, UM assistant professor of hydrogeology.

Von Trapp also won outstanding student poster at the Montana Chapter of the American Water Resource Association meeting this fall.

“She’s pretty much killing it,” Gardner said.

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Contact: Payton Gardner, assistant professor of hydrogeology, UM Geosciences, 406-243-2459, payton.gardner@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Every time she sees new graduates struggling to pass the certified public accountant exam, Sara Campbell is reminded of a distinct advantage she had early in her career. Even before she entered the workforce, the 2012 graduate of the University of Montana Master of Accountancy Program took – and passed – the
"Perhaps the most invaluable part of the MAcct program is the in-depth and advanced coursework which thoroughly prepared me for taking the CPA exam," said Campbell, a manager at Larson Gross CPAs and Consultants in Bellingham, Washington. "Having the exam completed before starting a new job with a steep learning curve set me ahead of my peers."

Recent national rankings corroborate Campbell’s high regard for UM’s program. Public Accounting Report’s 36th Annual Professors Survey ranked the program 16th in the country for master’s programs with less than 17 full-time accounting faculty members. UM placed 19th when compared to programs of all sizes in the West, one of four regions the survey ranked.

Many universities have master of accountancy programs to help students meet the five-year education requirement for CPA licensure. UM’s program is the only master of accountancy in Montana separately accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Both listings put the UM master’s program in good company. Surrounding it are schools like Cornell University, Rice University, the University of Colorado and the University of Oregon. Nearly 1,000 accounting professors from 200 U.S. colleges and universities participated in the survey, which ranks programs based on student and faculty activity.

Terri Herron, director of UM’s program and a professor of accounting, said the accounting program’s CPA exam pass rate surely helped it earn the strong ranking. UM’s accounting program has the No. 1 CPA exam first-time pass rate in Montana and among medium-sized schools in the Pacific Northwest. Having passed the exam allows students to set themselves apart from members of their cohort, who often start exam preparation classes once joining a firm.

“This reputation carries forward with our alums throughout their careers,” Herron said. “Our students come out very technically ready.”
Not surprisingly, recruiting for MAcct graduates is competitive. About 50 firms actively recruit potential accounting hires from UM’s College of Business each year. The program’s 10-year average for alumni who have jobs within three months of graduation is 94.7 percent, with about half of all grads working out of state.

“Employers love our students,” Herron said. “They’re willing to work hard. They’re not entitled. When it comes down to it, employers like to come here because they’re successful in hiring.”

Faculty excellence underpins the program’s strong reputation, she said. UM accounting professors represent the program in a variety of ways throughout the accounting profession at the state, national and global levels.

For example, Kent Swift, UM professor of accounting and Paul and Betty Haack Distinguished Faculty Fellow, was appointed to the Global Sustainability Standards Board in 2017. He’s the only academic on the 15-member board of international corporate members.

Herron is highly involved in the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and routinely teaches a course for the organization.

And Josh Herbold, chair of UM’s Department of Accounting and Finance and associate professor of accounting, is president of the Montana Society of CPAs. He is the first educator to hold the presidency of the professional group — Montana’s largest accounting association — since 2000.

“Our good reputation has staying power,” said Christopher Shook, Sprunk and Burnham Endowed Dean of the College of Business. “It isn’t new, and it’s built on years of faculty dedication and relentless dedication to student success and to the broader profession of accounting.”

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**Contact:** Elizabeth Willy, director of marking and communications, UM College of Business, 406-243-4436, elizabeth.willy@msou.mt.edu.
MISSOULA – Visitors have flocked to Yellowstone National Park to gaze in awe at its dramatic geysers, stunning mountains and impressive wildlife since 1872. Yet archaeological research reveals more than 11,000 years of human history on the seemingly untouched landscape.

University of Montana anthropology Professor Doug MacDonald uncovers this history in his new book “Before Yellowstone: Native American Archaeology in the National Park,” published Feb. 12 by the University of Washington Press. MacDonald will discuss his book at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.
MacDonald spent the past 11 summer field seasons taking UM students into the park to survey and excavate nearly 2,000 sites. His work reveals the story of the Native American people who hunted bison and bighorn sheep, fished for cutthroat trout and gathered bitterroot and camas bulbs on the land for thousands of years.

His research describes and explains the archaeological significance of popular areas such as the easy-to-visit Obsidian Cliff, where hunters obtained volcanic rock to make tools, and Yellowstone Lake, a traditional place for gathering edible plants.

MacDonald also helps readers understand the archaeological methods used and the limits of archaeological knowledge.

“From Clovis points associated with mammoth hunting to stone circles marking the sites of tipi lodges, ‘Before Yellowstone' brings to life a fascinating story of human occupation and use of this stunning landscape,” MacDonald said.

For more information call MacDonald at 406-274-8938 or email douglas.macdonald@umontana.edu.

Contact: Doug MacDonald, professor, UM Department of Anthropology, 406-274-8938, douglas.macdonald@umontana.edu.