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New Program Offers Montana High School Students Two Free Dual Enrollment Courses

August 31, 2018

MISSOULA – Montana high school students can get a jumpstart on their college education – for free – with the state’s new “One-Two-Free” dual enrollment program announced this week.

Dual enrollment allows students to take college courses while they are still enrolled in high school. Dual enrollment courses are offered on-site at more than 90 high schools across Montana, as well as on-campus at Montana University System institutions and online.

The new “One-Two-Free” program offers all eligible high school students the chance to take their first two dual enrollment courses through the Montana University System without paying tuition or fees. The average student will save \$1,190 through the “One-Two-Free” program. Total savings throughout the Montana University System will exceed \$5 million annually.

Many Missoula high school students are now able to take part in this opportunity by taking classes offered at the University of Montana, Missoula College, and Bitterroot College.

“We are excited to be a part of this program,” said Roger McLean, interim dean of Missoula College. “Though we have long been a part of dual enrollment in Missoula County, allowing students to take their first two classes at no cost will remove barriers to learning and provide a gateway to higher education for many students.”

Jon Harbor, UM’s provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said he is happy to see the “One-Two-Free” program in Missoula and hopes that this opens the door for many high school administrators and teachers to add dual enrollment classes to their curriculum.

“We want to ensure our bridges into the high schools go both ways,” Harbor said. “Dual enrollment is an excellent way to provide opportunities for the administration and faculty to participate in a much different capacity. This is an excellent program of which we want to take full advantage.”

“By eliminating the barrier of cost, we’re ensuring that all throughout our state students have exposure to the opportunities that college provides,” said Montana Gov. Steve Bullock. “Dual enrollment is making a difference for students, families and employers across our state by saving money, streamlining workforce preparation and inspiring more students to pursue higher education.”

“Student success is the No. 1 priority of the Montana University System, and dual enrollment has proven to be a critical tool for promoting student retention and completion, while reducing the need for postsecondary remediation and decreasing time and cost to degree,” said Clayton Christian, Montana commissioner of higher education. “We are committed to making sure that those students eager to start college in high school can benefit from the value of dual enrollment and can do so tuition free.”

Students have broad options in the type of courses they take. They can choose foundational courses like math, writing and history, and also explore courses that lead to career options in fields critical to the Montana economy such as health care, manufacturing, computing, business and education.

Along with a free early start to college through “One-Two-Free,” students in need of additional financial assistance can apply to have the cost of additional dual enrollment classes waived, helping ensure that cost is not a barrier to taking advantage of dual enrollment.

In 2013, there were about 2,500 dual enrollments per year. In the 2017-18 academic year, there were more than 6,000 dual enrollments and participation grew by 1,222 students compared to the prior year, representing a huge step forward in early access to education.

The statewide “One-Two-Free” program is available this academic semester. Students who wish to participate can find more information by visiting <https://mus.edu/one-two-free/index.html>.

###

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New York Times Columnist to Deliver UM President's Lecture Series at the Wilma

August 31, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host New York Times columnist David Brooks at the Wilma on Monday, Sept. 10, for the first installment of the 2018-19 President's Lecture Series.

UM President Seth Bodnar invites the UM community and the public to join him in welcoming Brooks for an evening of lively discussion. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and Brooks' lecture – which is titled "The Cultural Revolution We Need" – will begin at 7:30 p.m. The event is presented by Logjam.

That same day Brooks also will present a seminar from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the University Center Theater titled "Educating the Whole Person."

Brooks is a columnist for The New York Times, an executive director at the Aspen Institute and a commentator on "The PBS Newshour," NPR's "All Things Considered" and NBC's "Meet the Press."

He is the author of "Bobos In Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There" and "The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement." His fourth and most recent book, "The Road to

Character," was No. 1 on The New York Times best-seller list. Brooks also teaches at Yale University, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

"The President's Lecture Series provides an opportunity for all to gather, learn and discuss the ideas and issues that animate our communities," Bodnar said. "I look forward to hosting a series that challenges all of us to engage in meaningful – and enjoyable – learning both on campus and in the community."

###

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Survey Finds Trails Most Popular Feature for Montanans Visiting State Parks

August 29, 2018

MISSOULA – Nearly nine in 10 surveyed Montanans said they have visited a Montana state park and the majority are in search of public trails, according to a new report from the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana.

The study was undertaken to assist the Montana Parks in Focus Commission to better understand the extent residents use state parks and which outdoor amenities they seek.

The new report finds Montana residents who visit state parks visited 2.81 different state parks on average in the past year. Sixty-seven percent of all surveyed visitors say they use parks primarily for day use. Meanwhile, 22 percent of surveyed residents prefer to use state parks for overnight use, and 11 percent indicated they don't use state parks. The top amenities desired by resident state park users are picnic shelters, swimming areas, education/interpretive programs and visitor centers, with trails being the most frequently cited.

“Understanding what the resident state park user desires in their parks is paramount to a successful park system,” said Dr. Norma Nickerson, director of ITRR. “The most frequently cited amenity was public trails. However, age

plays a role in the intensity that Montanans desire trails.”

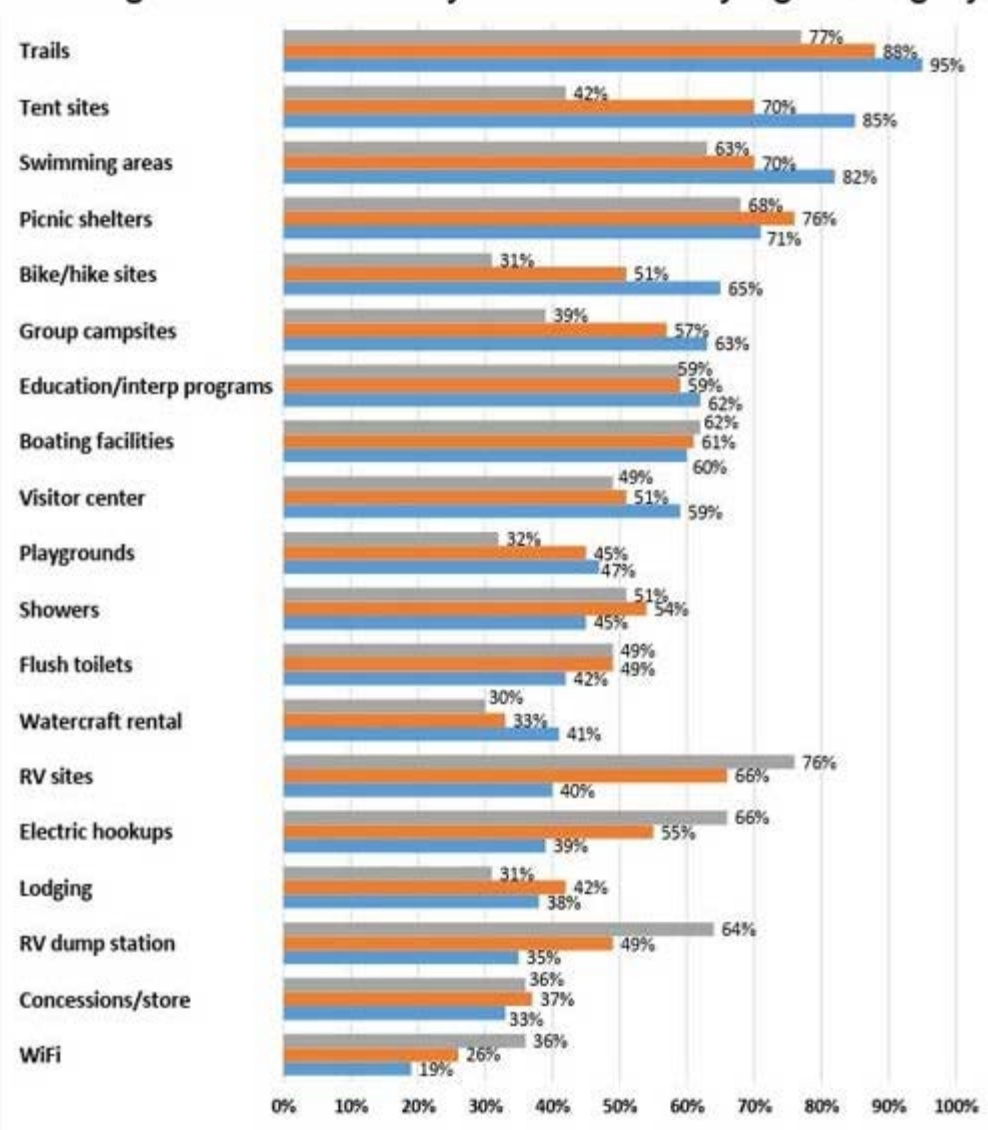
The study split the Montana population into three adult-age categories: 18-35, 36-55, and 56 and older.

“What we found is that the middle age group could be called the ‘average,’ but the other two age categories basically want and require some very different amenities,” Nickerson said.

Everyone wants trails, but when looking at overnight visitors to Montana State Parks, 95 percent of the 18-35 year olds want trails, 88 percent of the 36-55 age group want trails, while 77 percent of Montanans 56 and older want trails. That is an 18 percent “desire” range for trails from the younger age group compared to the older age group.

When it comes to spending the night in a state park, 85 percent of the younger group said they wanted tents sites but only 42 percent of the older age group wanted tent sites. Meanwhile, only 40 percent of the younger age group said they wanted RV sites while 76 percent of the older group would like RV sites. While WiFi was generally the least desired amenity in state parks, 36 percent of older overnight visitors said they wanted WiFi, 26 percent of the middle age group wanted it, but only 19 percent of the younger overnight visitors said WiFi was a desired amenity.

Overnight Visitors Amenity Preferences by Age Category



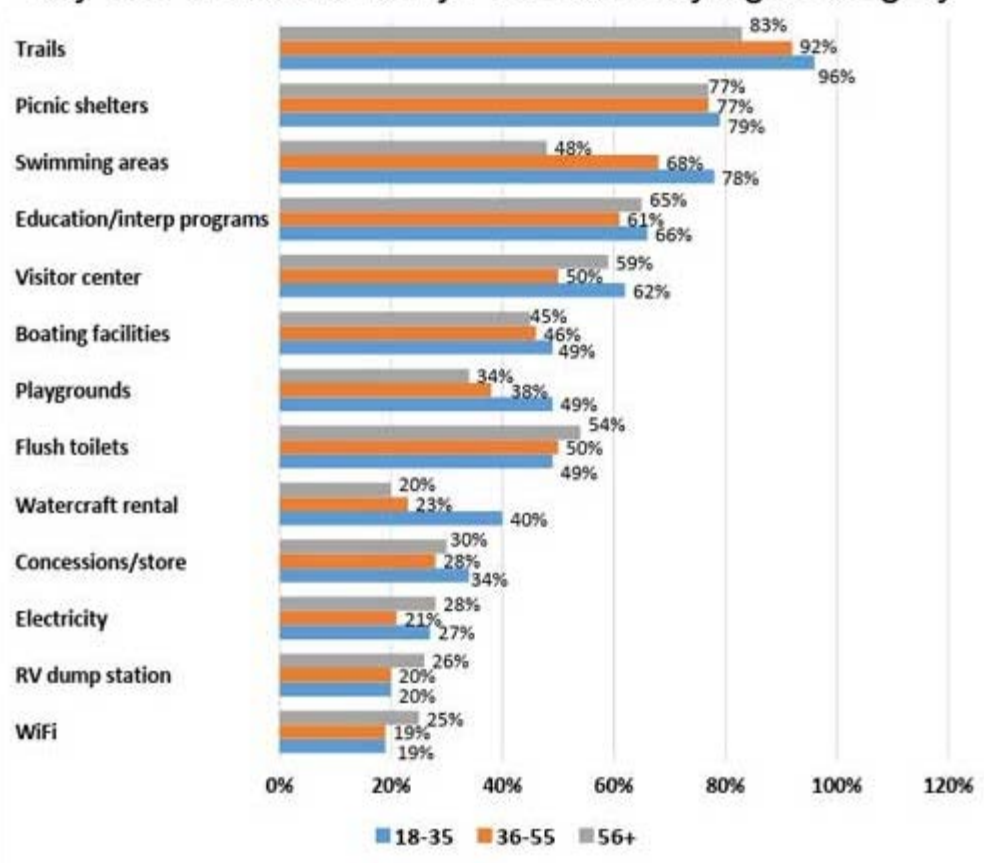
Age group differences did occur among day users, but those differences were not as stark. The only significant differences were that younger Montanans were 20 percent more likely to want swimming areas and 15 percent more likely to want playgrounds over the older age category. The data also show little to no difference between residents who live in in the more mountainous (western) part of the state with those who live in the less mountainous (eastern) part of the state.

Ben Alexander staffs the Montana Parks in Focus Commission and

says the information will be extremely valuable as the commission works to develop enduring recommendations to strengthen Montana’s overall state park system.

“We wanted to find out what Montanans across the state are looking for when they visit state parks so we can build the park system that delivers the best park experience to most residents,” Alexander said. “It is not surprising trails are in high demand, as they offer a way to experience our natural, historical and recreational parks, while also connecting our parks to nearby towns and surrounding public lands. There is something magic in the way parks connect us all, and trails appear to do that for most state park visitors.”

Day-use Visitors Amenity Preference by Age Category



Nickerson, who also serves on the Parks in Focus Commission, says that although trails are the most popular, state parks need to ensure a variety of recreational experiences are offered for all visitor age groups.

“The message this study sends is that there are common types of outdoor infrastructure that most Montanans are looking for and that we should be providing, but that we also should be cognizant of differences in age and activity type when making decisions on funding or policy decisions,” Nickerson said. “It is so easy to get the average and call it good. In the case of this study, the average could be the 36-55 age group. We also need to consider the needs of younger and older Montanans.”

The ITRR study surveyed 6,193 Montanans ages 18 and older who were intercepted at gas stations and rest areas throughout the state from April through mid-June 2018. The data were weighted to represent Montana’s population and gender.

More information on the study is available at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/itr_pubs/372/. All information and reports published by ITRR are available online at <http://www.itrr.umt.edu>.

###

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UM Announces 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

August 28, 2018

MISSOULA – Five outstanding University of Montana alumni will receive 2018 Distinguished Alumni Awards on Friday, Oct. 5, during Homecoming. The awards are the highest honor presented by the UM Alumni Association.



This year's distinguished alumni are Paul Lewing '69, M.F.A. '72, of **Shoreline, Washington**; William Marcus '74, of Missoula; Sara Peck '66, of **Lakeside**; Sheila Skemp '67 of **Oxford, Mississippi**; and Evelyn Adedoja Yeye Dada, M.P.A. '83, of Abuja, Nigeria.

Lewing, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in art from UM, followed his childhood dream to live as a professional artist in Seattle. Since 1972, he has worked in pottery and ceramic tile, and he has created more than 1,000 custom projects for clients all over the world, including dignitaries in Sweden and Japan. Lewing has written two books on the ancient technique of china painting, and he has painted numerous murals. His collections are in institutions from the Seattle Art Museum to the Igneri Talleres Foundation in the Dominican Republic, and some of his works include large tile murals for churches and colorful shower wall tiles with paintings of landscapes. He also has taught art and ceramics to thousands of students, presenting seminars in every U.S. state.

Marcus, who earned his degree in radio/television, came to UM from the small rural community of Wibaux, Montana, and devoted the next four decades to capturing the stories of his home state. He helped develop MontanaPBS before public television existed in Montana, bridging the divide between UM and Montana State University. As director of Montana Public Radio/MontanaPBS and UM's Broadcast Media Center, he also has brought student work on air. Marcus is well-known for his "Backroads of Montana" series on MontanaPBS, and his documentaries have earned him four regional Emmy awards. In 2010, "Night of the Grizzlies" had the most viewers of any Montana public television program. Marcus retired in 2015 but serves as an active volunteer with MontanaPBS, Montana Public Radio and the Montana Arts Council.

Interested in marine life from an early age, Peck, who earned a degree in education from UM, has integrated education and ecology throughout her life's work. She became passionate about coral reef ecosystems while working at the Waikiki Aquarium in Hawaii, and she began Ed-U-Dive Inc. in Montana to bring marine life study tours to aquariums and museums. She established a charter school focused on science and technology at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii. An education specialist for the University of Hawaii and a Hawaii'i Sea Grant Extension Agent, Peck has published many articles on marine science and established programs and educational resources to help protect the reefs surrounding Hawaii. The State of Hawaii and several foundations have recognized her, including the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

History scholar Skemp, who earned her undergraduate history degree at UM, has become a groundbreaker in her field. Skemp has taught history for more than 40 years at four different colleges and universities. She won outstanding teaching awards in 1985, 1990 and 2009 and has been lauded as a community-builder and mentor by colleagues at Stanford, Princeton, University of Michigan, Fordham and more. Skemp's work focuses on the Colonial and Revolutionary periods in American history, especially on the illegitimate son of Benjamin Franklin. Among the six books she has written, two – "Benjamin and William Franklin: Patriot and Loyalist, Father and Son" and "William Franklin: Son of a Patriot, Servant of a King" – focus on this little-known piece of history. Skemp is the Marquette Chair in American History at the University of Mississippi.

Yeye Dada already was a world-changer when she came to UM as an international student and earned her master's degree in public administration. She began her career in 1973 with the New Nigerian Development Company, becoming a leader in economic development. She worked for a short time with the U.S. Peace Corps and the British Council and then for more than 20 years with the United Nations in several countries throughout Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Yeye Dada's biography includes many significant accomplishments with the UN Children's Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization. She continues to serve with the UN after her retirement, and in 2016, she received a merit award from the king of her hometown of Egbe, Nigeria, for her contributions to the town's development.

The public is invited to the awards ceremony and reception at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5, in the University Center

Ballroom at UM.

###

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UM Alumni Association Seeks Nominations for New Alumni Award

August 27, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Alumni Association is proud to announce a new award honoring outstanding alumni who have graduated from UM within the past decade.

Grizzly of the Last Decade Award winners will be UM alumni who have excelled early in their career and show potential for continued success. Recipients will have received recognition as an emerging leader in their profession or community and serve as an outstanding role model for current and future UM students. The honor will be awarded annually to multiple UM alumni.

“UM is proud to produce skillful, purposed-driven graduates who go on to make significant impacts early in their careers,” said Jed Liston, UM alumni director. “Those recent alumni bring notoriety and prestige to UM. Now we are soliciting nominations so that we can recognize these stellar alumni with the new Grizzly of the Last Decade Award.”

Complete nomination criteria is available at <https://bit.ly/2wigiLx>. Nominations may be submitted by fellow alumni, faculty, staff and professional colleagues, or alumni can self-nominate. The deadline for the inaugural Grizzly of the Last Decade Award is Monday, Dec. 31. Nominees must have graduated after Dec. 31, 2007.

Learn more at <http://www.grizalum.com>.

###

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UM Researcher Estimates Wildlife Population Size with Cameras

August 27, 2018

MISSOULA – A University of Montana researcher has developed novel ways to estimate the population size of wildlife species using remote cameras.

Anna Moeller in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation completed the work as part of her master's degree in wildlife biology, along with her adviser, UM associate professor Paul Lukacs, and collaborator John Horne from



the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Her paper, published in the journal *Ecosphere*, explains the statistical models that make it possible to count animals not identifiable at an individual level.

“Most existing methods to estimate abundance from cameras work well for animals with unique stripe or spot patterns, like tigers and leopards,” Moeller said. “The challenge comes when you can’t tell individuals apart.”

Moeller and her team randomly placed 80 game cameras and modeled the distribution of animals to get an accurate estimate of the elk population in the Beaverhead Mountains of Idaho. IDFG funded the study to see if these methods could allow cameras to become a useful alternative to helicopter surveys, which are expensive and dangerous.

“Aviation accidents are the leading cause of death for wildlife biologists,” Moeller said. “We were really motivated to find a safer option.”

Scientists and wildlife managers have deployed thousands of remote cameras globally to study everything from predation to diet to migration. Moeller and her collaborators believe that their results can be applied around the world to help aid conservation methods and wildlife management.

The paper, “Three novel methods to estimate abundance of unmarked animals using remote cameras,” is online in *Ecosphere* at <https://bit.ly/2wilXkH>.

###

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UM Leaders Look Toward Future in State of the University Address

August 24, 2018

MISSOULA – University of Montana President Seth Bodnar delivered the annual State of the University address on Aug. 24 in front of a near-capacity crowd in the Montana Theatre on campus.

Breaking with tradition, the president invited leaders of the University's shared governance groups – the student, faculty and staff senates – to share the podium with him during the address.

“The president wanted to share the stage with representatives from the entire campus community,” said UM spokeswoman Paula Short. “We are all deeply committed to this institution, and we share in its struggles and its triumphs.”

The president opened with an acknowledgement of the indigenous lands that UM sits upon today and the legacy of the institution, as well as its

aspirational future.

Central to the address was the theme of student success. Frequently, Bodnar spoke of the ways in which the institution will “place students at the center of all we do.” There were specific examples of student success and transformation, stories of distinguished alumni and remarks on the quality of educational offerings all across campus. Bodnar spoke of UM’s record-breaking research funding, the increased enrollment during summer semester and the actions UM needs to take to recruit more students.



“Our enrollment will be down slightly this fall, but it is much better than we projected it would be back in February,” he said. “And while it’s frustrating, for certain, I’m more confident than ever that as we communicate more effectively and put in place the right operational processes, enrollment will rise. We have people all over the country who want to attend UM.”

He noted that UM leaders have been consistent in their vision and planning for the institution, evidenced by alignment between recent strategic plans, accreditation reports and the recent work of the University Planning Committee.

“The task now is to implement our good ideas,” Bodnar said. “We as an institution must be clear not just in our values and principles, but also in the concrete steps we will take to live up to them.”

Bodnar’s vision for UM centers around five key priorities for action:

1. Place student success at the center of all we do.
2. Drive excellence and innovation in teaching, learning and research.
3. Embody the principle of “Mission First, People Always.”
4. Partner with place.
5. Proudly tell the UM story.

Remarks from the shared governance leaders – Mariah Welch from the Associated Students of UM; Matt Semanoff, chair of the Faculty Senate; and Luke Alford, chair of the Staff Senate – encouraged collaboration across campus in implementing the shared vision for UM. Each called upon their respective constituents to engage in the discussion

and provide input and ideas moving forward.

The State of the University ceremony concluded with recognition of new members of the executive leadership team, as well as announcements of faculty hires, tenure and promotion by the deans of each school and college.

The 2018 State of the University address was broadcast live by Missoula Community Access Television and may be viewed on their website, <http://www.mcat.org>.

###

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UM Secures \$1.5M Grant to Purchase Three New Electric Buses

August 24, 2018

MISSOULA – Three new zero-emission battery electric buses will arrive at the University of Montana thanks to a \$1.5 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration. The Associated Students of UM's UDASH transit system was awarded the competitive grant through the FTA's Low and No Emission Bus Program.

In 2016, the student-run transit agency bought two electric buses, making UM the first university in the country to operate fast-charging battery-electric buses. This new grant allows ASUM to purchase three more of the zero-emission vehicles while phasing out diesel buses. ASUM expects to order buses this fall and receive them sometime in 2020.

"This is great news for the University of Montana," said Mariah Welch, ASUM vice president. "These buses will reduce harmful emissions in and around the university. Our innovative student-run transit system was an early adopter of electric bus technology, and we were competitive in this grant application because of the entrepreneurial spirit of our student government."

Over the past 18 months of operating its existing electric buses, ASUM has noted numerous benefits to the quiet,

clean vehicles. Operational costs are significantly lower, noise and emissions from diesel buses are eliminated, and students are excited about the new technology.

“When we launched our first two battery electric buses, it became obvious that we wanted more,” said Jordan Hess, director of ASUM’s Office of Transportation. “We’re saving money, improving our airshed and providing a great rider experience.”

The new electric buses will allow ASUM to replace several diesel buses that have exceeded their useful life, while empowering ASUM to continue providing innovative transportation options to UM students and visitors. Nearly 400,000 passengers use UDASH each year, and more than 15 percent of UM students ride transit to campus. UDASH is also free and open to the public.

“Public transportation benefits the University by reducing traffic congestion and demand for parking,” Hess said. “Transportation is a system, and everybody benefits when our students choose transit. We’re grateful to the entire congressional delegation, UM President Seth Bodnar and Gov. Steve Bullock for their support in this grant application.”

###

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Mansfield Library at UM Receives Grant to Help Preserve Materials

August 22, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library has landed a \$20,671 Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant will help fund a project to improve storage for the library’s rare books, historic photographs, archival collections and other materials.

“Part of the library’s overall mission is preserving and protecting cultural heritage materials in its trust,” said Shali Zhang, UM dean of libraries. “This grant allows us to work with an interdisciplinary team of experts to survey and assess the library building and its mechanical systems and will provide an actionable and sustainable plan for development.”

According to Donna McCrea, head of the library’s archives, special collections and preservation unit, the library has a good temperature control system now, but the relative humidity in the building fluctuates more than is recommended for certain cultural heritage materials, including photographs and vellum-bound books.

One project goal is to stabilize the climate in certain storage areas and another is to determine whether additional air filtration systems are needed to mitigate the impact of smoke from forest fires on the library’s cultural heritage

collections.

McCrea said that the collections at the heart of the project, including unpublished diaries, letters, photographs and oral histories, are primarily about the people and activities of Montana, particularly western Montana.

“Archives and Special Collections materials are used on and off campus for personal and professional research and scholarship,” McCrea said. “For example, photos from the archives illustrate scholarly books and articles, hang on the walls of Montana homes and businesses and have been used to inform a variety of projects, including climate change studies and industrial cleanup operations. We want to ensure that all our special collections are available for research into the future.”

More information about the Mansfield Library’s Archives and Special Collections and its holdings is online at <http://www.lib.umt.edu/asc>.

The National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 created the National Endowment for the Humanities as an independent federal agency. The law identified the need for a national cultural agency that would preserve America’s rich history and cultural heritage and encourage and support scholarship and innovation in history, archaeology, philosophy, literature and other humanities disciplines.

The Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections program helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials for future generations by supporting sustainable conservation measures that mitigate deterioration, prolong the useful life of collections and support institutional resilience: the ability to anticipate and respond to natural and man-made disasters.

###

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Inaugural Montana Music Summit to Engage Students, Industry Leaders Oct. 12-13

August 21, 2018

MISSOULA – As Missoula’s vibrant music scene continues to grow, a new University of Montana event will highlight the business side of the industry.

The UM Entertainment Management program will co-host the inaugural Montana Music Summit at UM on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 12-13, in partnership with the Summit Series, which has produced the Vegas Music Summit and Summit LA events.

The two-day conference in the Gallagher Business Building will bring together artists, entertainment executives, technology professionals, college students, entrepreneurs and visionaries to present, educate and share ideas about the evolving entertainment landscape.

Summit Series provides opportunities for local artists to grow their following. Imagine Dragons and Awolnation once

showcased their talents at Summit Series events on their path to becoming successful recording artists.

Confirmed panelists for the Montana Music Summit include Tim Bierman, the general manager at Ten Club for the Pearl Jam Fan Club; Matt Sonzala, an industry leader and booking agent who has worked with iconic programs such as SXSW and the Red Bull Sound Select Music Program; John Wicks, the founding member of Fitz and The Tantrums who also collaborated with Bruno Mars; Michael Garcia, the director of industry relations and an assistant professor at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music; and several Montana entertainment executives and other national panelists to be announced.

Sessions will cover a wide range of entertainment management topics, including guidance to recording original music, talent management, how to produce a music festival and community building through music.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://ticketf.ly/2MGOTfW>.

UM's Entertainment Management program introduces students to the business of entertainment while giving them opportunities to learn from top professionals in the industry. Offering certificates for both undergraduate and graduate students, the program is housed in UM's College of Business.

###

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UM Leaders to Deliver State of the University Address Aug. 24

August 21, 2018

MISSOULA – University of Montana President Seth Bodnar, Provost Jon Harbor, UM’s academic deans and shared governance leaders will host the annual State of the University Address at 11:15 a.m. Friday, Aug. 24.

The University community, members of the public and the media are invited to the event, which will be held in the Montana Theatre of UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. Coffee and tea will be available in the lobby prior to the event.

The address will be streamed live online at <http://www.mcat.org/#!/local-live/cchx>.

“The State of the University Address marks the beginning of a new academic year and the continuation of our collective efforts to provide an excellent education for every student who joins our family,” Bodnar said. “We will celebrate our new and recently promoted faculty, and we will turn our attention to the exciting year ahead.”

###

Note to media: President Bodnar and other UM leaders will be available for brief media interviews in the Meloy Gallery of the PAR/TV Center immediately following the address.

JS
Local
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Study: Decreasing Number of Rainy Days in Summer Has Increased Western Wildfire

August 20, 2018

MISSOULA – The number and size of large wildfires has increased dramatically in the western United States during the past three decades. New research shows that significant declines in summer precipitation and lengthening dry spells during summer are major drivers of the increase in fire activity. This is contrary to previous understanding that the increase is attributable only to warming temperatures and earlier snowmelt.

The research was conducted by a team of scientists from the USDA Forest Service and the University of Montana, funded by NASA and the USDA, and published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The paper is online at <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/08/14/1802316115>.

The research team contrasted the effects of snowmelt timing, warming summer temperatures and variations in the volume and distribution of summer precipitation on wildfire area burned. They found that summer precipitation totals and the duration of dry spells were the strongest controls on forest wildfire area burned.

“Summer dry periods are tightly coupled to how warm and dry the air is during the fire season,” said Zack Holden, USDA Forest Service scientist and lead author of the study. “Longer windows without rain lead to more surface heating which dries out woody fuels.”

“The maps of declining precipitation help us think about patterns of future drought, which can help us focus work near communities likely to experience continuing declines,” said Charlie Luce, USDA Forest Service research hydrologist and co-author of the study.

“This new information can help us better monitor changing conditions before the fire season to ensure that areas are prepared for increased wildfire potential. Further, it may improve our ability to predict fire season severity,” said Matt Jolly, USDA Forest Service research ecologist and co-author of the study.

The study was conducted as part of a larger project aimed at improving wildfire danger and drought monitoring.

UM hydrology and hydrologic modeling Associate Professor Marco Maneta was also a co-author.

“Decreases in precipitation and the increasing length of dry spells during the summer – a time when crop water demand in the arid west are highest – is not only exacerbating wildfires but could also have serious implications for western agriculture, especially in states highly reliant on rainfed crops,” Maneta said.

###

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Montana Public Radio to Celebrate Leonard Bernstein's 100th Birthday

August 17, 2018

MISSOULA – Montana Public Radio will celebrate the 100th birthday of late American composer Leonard Bernstein with special music and programs beginning Monday, Aug. 20.

“Leonard Bernstein at 100” is MTPR’s weeklong celebration highlighting the life and works of the composer, conductor, educator, musician, cultural ambassador and humanitarian.

“We’re happy to help listeners celebrate one of the greatest American composers,” MTPR Program Director Michael Marsolek said. “Bernstein’s influence can be felt in classical music, opera, ballet movies, Broadway, jazz and more.”

Special programs include the “Monday Music Special,” featuring an hour of music, listener remembrances and an interview with Bernstein’s oldest daughter. The program, produced by Helena Symphony Orchestra conductor Allan R. Scott, airs at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20.

MTPR’s John Arvish will celebrate the jazz side of Bernstein on “What I Like About Jazz” from 8 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22. A special on Bernstein produced by American Public Media will air at 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24.

Scott also will host a special music show following the opera at 2 p.m. on Bernstein's birthday, Saturday, Aug. 25.

The week ends with a special "Sunday Symphony" performance of Bernstein music by the Helena Symphony Orchestra and Choral, recorded in May and airing at 9 p.m.

MTPR also will feature Bernstein selections each day during its normal classical music programs – "Morning Classics" from 9 to 11 a.m. and "Performance Today" from 2 to 4 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday.

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

Learn more at <http://mtpur.org>.

###

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College of Business at UM to Celebrate Centennial Sept. 21-22

August 16, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana College of Business invites all alumni and friends to help celebrate its centennial anniversary on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21-22.

Festivities will include an outdoor luncheon, brunch with current students and more, culminating with a riverfront party at 7 p.m. on Friday in Missoula's Caras Park.

"Over the past century, our college has helped 20,000 alumni follow their dreams, and it has made so many contributions to the business community of this state and beyond," said Chris Shook, Sprunk and Burnham Endowed Dean of the College of Business. "That meaningful history, the success of our students and alumni, and our vibrant future are what this centennial celebrates."

The weekend will kick off on Friday with a lunch provided by Five on Black, the Brazilian restaurant founded by a College of Business alum. The college will officially ring in its 100th anniversary on the banks of the Clark Fork River at an evening party featuring music, brews and hors d'oeuvres provided by a variety of UM business alumni, including Market on Front, Big Dipper Ice Cream and Big Sky Brewing.

Celebrations continue on campus Saturday, when the college will hold its scholarship brunch to celebrate student achievement and donor contributions. Attendees will then head to Washington-Grizzly Stadium to cheer on the Griz football team as it takes on Sacramento State.

Throughout the weekend, centennial attendees will have access to a host of activities – options including a golf scramble at the UM Golf Course, group hikes to the “M,” tours of Gallagher Business Building and the UM campus, and the opportunity to record memories in an oral history format.

Registration includes lunch on Friday afternoon, the riverfront garden party in the evening and brunch on Saturday. Participants who register by Tuesday, Aug. 21, receive the early-bird rate of \$75 per person. To register and see the full centennial schedule, visit <http://www.business.umt.edu/centennial>.

UM's business college got its start when the State Board of Education authorized the organization of the School of Business Administration in 1918. With three faculty members and 25 students, it offered courses such as shorthand, typing and accounting on the top floor of Main Hall. By 1920, the school had one of the largest enrollments at UM, something it maintains today.

The school became one of the first 50 business schools nationwide to receive American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business accreditation in 1949, also something it maintains today.

Throughout the ensuing decades, the school continued to grow. It launched its Master of Business Administration program – a highlight of any modern business school – in 1965. In 1975, it established the Beta Alpha Psi honorary accounting fraternity. A strong tradition in accounting continues at UM today, with the Master's in Accountancy program ranking in the top 20 nationally.

The 1980s and 1990s saw the development of the John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge, which the college still runs in partnership with Blackstone LaunchPad. The competition has played a role in the initiation of a host of companies that now operate on local and international levels. Another highlight includes the 1996 dedication of the William and Rosemary Gallagher Business Building, which the college occupies today.

UM's business college now offers six majors, a minor and three graduate degrees. The college is known for graduating students who enter the workforce not only with business skills, but real-world acumen. Its list of notable and accomplished alumni is extensive and includes highly successful entrepreneurs, as well as current and former executives at Fortune 500 companies and locally influential startups.

U.S. News and World Report has ranked UM's College of Business as the top business school in the Big Sky Conference for the past two years, a ranking that puts UM 101 spots in front of the next business school in Montana.

For more information visit <http://www.business.umt.edu/centennial>, call 406-243-6276 or email collegeofbusiness@mso.umt.edu.

###

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UM Researcher Finds Genetic Differences in Trees Untouched by Mountain Pine Beetles

August 16, 2018

MISSOULA – A

University of Montana researcher has discovered that mountain pine beetles may avoid certain trees within a population they normally would kill due to genetics in the trees.

UM Professor Diana Six



made the discovery after studying mature whitebark and lodgepole trees that were the age and size that mountain pine beetle prefer, but had somehow escaped attack during the recent outbreak.

After DNA screening, survivor trees all contained a similar genetic makeup that was distinctly different from the general population that were mostly susceptible to the beetle.

“Our findings suggest that survivorship is genetically based and, thus, heritable,” Six said, “which is what gives us hope.”

In western North America, whitebark pine, a high elevation keystone species recommended for listing as an endangered species, and lodgepole pine, a widespread ecologically and economically important tree, have experienced extensive mortality in recent climate-driven outbreaks of the mountain pine beetle.

“Our results suggest that surviving trees possess a wealth of information that can be used to inform our understanding of the genetic and phenotypic bases for resistance and to develop management approaches that support forest adaptation,” Six said.

The study was published July 23 in the journal *Frontiers in Plant Science* and is available online at <http://bit.ly/2PdDW3V>. Since its publication, it has received nearly 1,000 views.

###

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UM Alumnus Wins Young Forester Leadership Award

August 15, 2018

MISSOULA – The Society of American Foresters recently named Jason Parke, an alumnus of the University of Montana W. A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, the recipient of the 2018 Young Forester Leadership Award.

The accolade is given to SAF members under



the age 40 who demonstrate outstanding leadership in forestry, recognizing

both the development of individual projects and programs and sustained leadership roles in the society and the profession.

Parke is the first and only forester for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

“I work for the Habitat Bureau of the Wildlife Division, so my primary responsibility is to manage the forest for habitat objectives on wildlife management areas around the state,” Parke said.

He also assists with projects for the fisheries and parks divisions and has his hands in all varieties of ventures relating to forest management. Parke has held the role since 2015, and he said his favorite part of his job is the opportunity to build the FWP program from the ground up.

Parke graduated from UM in 2006, earning a B.S. in forestry with a concentration in forest resource management.

“I grew up in Montana hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors,” he said. “As a kid, I didn’t really know that there was a potential career out there, but my dad’s friend worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. I talked to him a little bit about working in the field and then looked into those options at UM. I already had it in my head to go to UM.”

He started out as a parks, tourism and recreation management major, but heard about forestry during orientation. He signed up for the forestry first-year interest group and switched majors after his first semester. As a student, he was involved with the Forestry Student Association, the SAF student chapter, the Montana Druids honors organization and the Woodsman Team.

He also served as chief push of the 89th annual Foresters’ Ball. He says his favorite memories from college center around the teamwork and camaraderie of organizing the event and the leadership skills he learned in the process.

Parke joined SAF as a student in 2002. He has chaired the Student Chapter and the Flathead Chapter, served as state chair of the Montana SAF in 2015 and is currently co-chair of the Eastside Chapter.

The Young Forester Leadership Award will be presented at the 2018 SAF national convention Oct. 3-7 in Portland, Oregon. Parke says the biggest honor of the award is the support from the Montana SAF community who nominated him, including a letter of support from UM Provost Emeritus Perry Brown.

Parke's advice to current FCFC students is to get involved in clubs that match their interests – from the American Fisheries Society to the Wildlife Society.

"The leadership skills I was able to get out of being involved in clubs was huge," Parke said. "Offer to help when they're looking for officers or just a project that they're taking on. To be involved in that is a huge way to get that leadership experience early on. It helped me land my seasonal jobs and my first permanent job. You just make a lot of connections."

###

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Princeton Review Names UM Among Best 384 Colleges for 2019

August 16, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana recently was named to the Princeton Review’s 2019 list of top four-year colleges and universities in North America.

“The Best 384 Colleges: 2019 Edition” was released Aug. 7. Rankings in the 2019 edition are based on online surveys of 138,000 students at colleges that appeared in the book in the previous three years. The survey asks students 84 questions about their school’s academics, administration and student body, as well as themselves.

In addition to making “The Best 384 Colleges” list, UM also was among the 129 schools selected for the western division of the Princeton Review’s “Best Regional Colleges.”

Annually published since 1992, the annual Princeton Review ranking includes detailed profiles of each school and ratings in a variety of areas, such as academics, campus life, tuition and financial aid.

To read more about how UM ranked this year, visit <https://www.princetonreview.com/college/university-montana-1023574>.

###

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Student Employment Fair set for Aug. 30 at UM

August 15, 2018

MISSOULA – The Office of Career Services at the University of Montana will host the Student Employment Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, in the University Center Ballroom.

The fair is open to all organizations or departments on and off campus that need college students for part-time, internship or volunteer positions.

Registered employers will receive a career fair booth, lunch and free parking. The Office of Career Services will have students on hand to help employers with their fair materials and assist with setup.

Employers can register online by signing into Handshake at <https://umt.joinhandshake.com/login>.

For more information, call Laurie Fisher, director of Career Services, at 406-243-6989 or email careers@umontana.edu.

###

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UM Dance Program Offers Creative Movement Classes for Missoula Children

August 14, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance will hold weekly children’s dance classes beginning Thursday, Sept. 6, in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

Creative movement classes provide opportunities for children to express their inherent creativity through their bodies. Based on the premise that children love to move, creative movement capitalizes on a child’s natural movement forms: jumping, twisting, spinning and leaping. Children also are exposed to elements of dance and basic movement patterns.

According to adjunct instructor of dance Laurel Sears, children – even those who may never have formally danced before – benefit from the course in multiple ways.

“Parents tell me all the time how much their kids re-enact what they learned in the class at home,” Sears said. “One student recently themed her whole fifth birthday party around her class.”

UM’s children dance classes, offered to students ages 3 1/2 to 10, serve as an introduction to dance. Additionally,

7- to 10-year-old students will have the opportunity to learn the basics of dance technique and create their own original choreography.

The classes will take place each Thursday of the fall session beginning Sept. 6 and ending Nov. 29, with Nov. 22 off for Thanksgiving. Classes are segmented by age: 3:30 to 4 p.m. for students ages 3 1/2 to 4, 4:15 to 5 p.m. for students ages 5 to 6 and 5:15 to 6 p.m. for students ages 7 to 10.

The class costs \$80 per student per semester, plus a \$15 administrative fee per student per academic year. There is a 10 percent sibling discount, and a \$10 discount to parents/guardians who are UM employees.

All classes are accompanied by live piano and drums. As a part of the School of Theatre & Dance's offerings, UM students earn credit for participating as student teachers. With the addition of the student teachers in each class, children get personal attention and the opportunity to learn from various teaching styles.

For more information and to register, visit

<https://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/childrens/childrensdance/default.php>.

###

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Montana Basketball Exchange Participants Return from El Salvador

August 13, 2018

MISSOULA – A cohort of 19 professionals and students from Montana recently returned from El Salvador where they served as citizen ambassadors in a U.S. Department of State youth sports diplomacy program.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana managed the program, which uses sports to bridge cultures and support at-risk youth in Central America. The Montana group spent eight days in July in El Salvador teaching basketball clinics to youths and coaches. In return, they will host youth and adult sports mentors from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in Montana next April.

The Sports Diplomacy program helps build teamwork and self-discipline in youth that often lead to success in other aspects of their lives. Montana's citizen ambassadors included several former Lady Griz and Griz basketball players. Drawing on their basketball expertise,

the ambassadors shared the role sports can play in youth development while promoting technical proficiency among coaches, administrators and officials.

"I went to El Salvador thinking it was mostly about putting on some basketball clinics, but what I found is that it was so much more," said Greta Koss Buehler, a former Lady Griz and WNBA player. "I learned about a culture that is vastly different from my own, met many wonderful people and realized that despite all the differences between our countries, I was able to connect with people through basketball."



Kristy Langton Schlimgen, also a former Lady Griz player and current teacher and coach, took part in the exchange as well.

"This has been an incredible experience in every aspect – including the amazing time spent with the beautiful youth we were privileged to coach, the dedicated coaches who are working tirelessly to overcome many obstacles in an attempt to teach more basketball, the numerous fabulous sites we experienced and, lastly, the once-in-a-lifetime U.S. Embassy in El Salvador experience with U.S. Ambassador Jean Manes," she said.

The El Salvador exchange was the first of four sports exchanges to Latin America under the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' International Sports Programming Initiative cooperative agreement. In May 2019, the Mansfield Center will offer a soccer exchange to Peru that focuses on girls' empowerment and indigenous culture, with external partners implementing the other two exchanges to support Mexico and Columbia. The Mansfield Center is an established partner in Sports Diplomacy programming, having created similar exchanges in China and Laos.

UM's Mansfield Center promotes better understanding of international relations and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield (1993-2001) and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. The center houses programs that promote global ties, leadership and ethics in public affairs – the core interests and hallmarks of Sen. Mansfield's career.

###

Note to media: More photos available upon request. Email Kelsey Stamm Jimenez at kelsey.stamm@umontana.edu.

Contact: Kelsey Stamm Jimenez, program manager, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2838, kelsey.stamm@umontana.edu.



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UM Preps for Aug. 13 Pearl Jam Concert

August 09, 2018

MISSOULA – The grunge goodness of Pearl Jam has graced the University of Montana many times, and now UM is preparing for the band's largest Missoula show ever as the Rock & Roll Hall of Famers return on Monday, Aug. 13.

Be aware that:

- Campus Drive near Washington-Grizzly Stadium will be closed intermittently to traffic Friday through Sunday, Aug. 10-12. The road will be fully closed Sunday evening through Tuesday morning, Aug. 12-14.
- UM will close the M Trail and Mount Sentinel for the full 24 hours of Monday, Aug. 13, because of Stage II fire restrictions and tinder-dry grass conditions. That time coincides with the pre-concert tailgate from 3 to 8 p.m. and the 8 p.m. concert. UM officials will evaluate future Mount Sentinel closures as the fire season progresses.
- Parking Lot Z adjacent to the Adams Center will be closed through Wednesday, Aug. 15.
- Pearl Jam Merch World, as well as the Adams Center Box Office and Will Call, will open from noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12.
- UM students and employees are encouraged to avoid driving to campus on Monday. UDASH will provide free bus shuttle service to campus that day. Anyone can park for free at the Lewis & Clark Transfer Center and the Dornblaser Park and Ride and take UDASH to Miller Hall, Jesse Hall and the Music Building beginning at 7:10

a.m. Buses will run every 20 minutes until 2 p.m. Buses will run every eight to 12 minutes from 2 p.m. until 1 a.m. Visit <http://bit.ly/2noN7le> or call 406-243-4599 for more information.

- The following UM parking lots will be closed to regular parking Monday: L, M, M1, N, N1, P, S, T, U, V, W, Y and Z. Assigned reserved parking permits will be honored until 5 p.m. Sections of the following streets near the stadium also will be closed to general traffic: Fifth Street, Sixth Street, Van Buren Street, Connell Avenue, Eddy Avenue and Maurice Avenue. Parking maps are online at <http://bit.ly/2vRSNrL>.
- The Adams Center will be closed to the general public on Monday except for the Box Office lobby. Youth camps will continue. Campus Recreation Outdoor Programs will close Saturday through Monday. The Fitness and Recreation Center will close at 1 p.m. Monday.
- Concert parking opens at 8 a.m. Monday.
- The Rock2Vote Festival begins at 3 p.m. Monday in the tailgate and Campus Drive areas.
- The stadium gates open to concertgoers at 6 p.m. Monday.
- Prohibited items inside the stadium include bags larger than 4.5 by 6.5 inches, professional cameras, and food and drink purchased outside the festival area.
- Pick the right gate. All general admission floor tickets enter through Gate 1 on the northwest side of the stadium at Merch World. Ten Club ticket holders enter through Gate 9 on the north side.
- More information is online at <http://www.grizevents.com/>.

Pearl Jam has performed live for 28 years. Ten studio albums, hundreds of unique live performances and official live concert bootleg releases later, the band continues to be critically acclaimed and commercially successful – with more than 85 million albums sold worldwide and a 2017 induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

This will be the band's second concert in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The first took place in June 1998.

###

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UM Alumnus Elected American Bar Association President

August 09, 2018

MISSOULA – The American Bar Association has selected a University of Montana alumnus to lead its 400,000 members as the organization's 142nd president.

Bob Carlson, who earned his bachelor's degree from UM in 1976 and a Juris Doctor in 1979, accepted the gavel at the ABA annual meeting in Chicago on Aug. 6.

Carlson, a **Butte** resident and



shareholder with Corette Black Carlson & Mickelson P.C., will

be Montana's second president of the national organization – more than six decades after the first Montanan held the position.

An active member of the Montana and national legal community, Carlson served as president of the State Bar of Montana from 1993 to 1994, chaired the state bar's board of trustees, and served as Montana's state bar delegate on the ABA House of Delegates and state chair of the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation. Carlson served as the Chair of the ABA House of Delegates, the association's policy making body, from 2012 to 2014. He served as a member of the ABA's Board of Governors, chaired the Executive Compensation Committee and served as a member of the Executive Council of the National Conference of Bar Presidents. The former UM Alumni Association board member also has served on the law school's Clinical Board of Visitors since 1994.

William J. Jameson, a U.S federal judge under President Dwight Eisenhower and a member of the Montana House of Representatives, served as Montana's first ABA president from 1953 to 1954.

The William J. Jameson Law Library at UM's Alexander Blewett III School of Law is named after Jameson, a 1919 graduate of the University and a 1922 graduate of the law school. The State Bar of Montana has a William J. Jameson award named in his honor – the highest honor bestowed by the association. Carlson won the Jameson Award in 2016.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for not only a member of the Montana legal community, but for a graduate of our great law school," said Paul Kirgis, dean of the law school. "Bob is already a tireless volunteer for the law school, the State Bar of Montana and ABA, and he is perfectly positioned to tackle the ABA's goals of serving its members and improving the legal profession throughout the country.

"We wish him the best in this role and look forward to his successes."

As a small-firm owner, Carlson will bring a different experience to the role, as recent presidents have hailed from some of the nation's largest law firms. ABA Immediate Outgoing President Hilarie Bass is co-president of Greenberg Traurig, with more than 1,800 attorneys; Linda Klein, ABA president for 2016-17, is senior managing

shareholder at Baker Donelson, with 750 attorneys; and Paulette Brown, ABA president for 2015-16, is senior partner and chief diversity and inclusion officer at Locke Lorde, with 840 attorneys. By comparison, Corette Black Carlson & Mickelson has four full-time lawyers.

Carlson plans to continue the organization's mission of advocating for access to justice and criminal justice reform but also hopes to focus on making a difference for practicing lawyers in their everyday work.

"As a Montana lawyer in a small firm, I know firsthand what a difference membership in the ABA makes for my practice and what a difference it makes in all our communities and our nation," Carlson said. "As president, I want to deliver the message that the ABA is essential for all lawyers. We are the voice of the legal profession, an advocate for the rule of law and a place where every lawyer can access abundant resources to be a better practicing lawyer."

Carlson's one-year term as ABA president began when the organization's annual meeting adjourned.

###

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UM Greets Students with 'Griz Welcome' Aug. 19-Sept. 2

August 09, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana and the Missoula community will welcome students arriving for fall semester with a full slate of “Griz Welcome” events from Sunday, Aug. 19, to Sunday, Sept. 2.

“We are happy to join with our friends in the Missoula community to welcome both our new and returning Grizzlies to campus,” said Cathy Cole, vice president for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communication. “The Griz Welcome is a long-standing tradition at UM and a wonderful way for our students, faculty, staff and community members to gear up for another exciting year.”

A few highlights include a welcome meal on the Oval Wednesday, Aug. 22; Academic Convocation Wednesday, Aug. 29; games and movies on the Oval; and a WelcomeFeast lunch Friday, Aug. 31. Additionally, students can attend open houses at UM’s schools and colleges to familiarize themselves with campus and all of its offerings. A schedule follows.

Sunday, Aug. 19

- Glow-in-the-Dark Capture the Flag – 9-10:30 p.m., the Oval.

Monday, Aug. 20

- Pizza Party – 5-8 p.m., University Center Game Room.

Tuesday, Aug. 21

- Rafting Trip – 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., departs from Outdoor Program office.
- Trivia Night – 7-9 p.m., UC Ballroom.



Wednesday, Aug. 22

- The Meal: Welcome to Our Table – 5:30-8:30 p.m., the Oval.
- Speed Friending – 8:30-10 p.m., UC Commons.

Thursday, Aug. 23

- Grocery Bingo – 8:30-10 p.m., UC Commons.

Friday, Aug. 24

- Silent Disco – 8-11:30 p.m., the Oval in front of Main Hall.

Saturday, Aug. 25

- Rafting trip – 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., departs from Outdoor Program office.
- Movie on the Oval: "Monsters, Inc." – 9:30 p.m.-midnight, the Oval.

Sunday, Aug. 26

- End of Summer Lū'au – 5-9 p.m., the Oval.

Monday, Aug. 27

- Fall Semester Classes Begin
- Free Fitness Week Begins, Campus Recreation Center.

- Free Physical Therapy Consultation Week, Skaggs Building Room 129.
- College of Business Open House – 10 a.m.-noon.
- Residence Halls Floor Meetings – 5-9 p.m., Residence Halls.
- Shakespeare in the Parks: “Love’s Labour’s Lost” – 6-8 p.m., the Oval.

Tuesday, Aug. 28

- School of Journalism Open House – 10 a.m.-noon, Don Anderson Hall Room 201.
- College of Humanities & Sciences Open House – 10 a.m.-noon, Liberal Arts Building Room 126.
- Residence Halls Floor Meetings – 5-9 p.m., Residence Halls.
- Shakespeare in the Parks: “Othello” – 6-8 p.m., the Oval.

Wednesday, Aug. 29

- Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences Open House – 10 a.m.-noon, Phyllis J. Washington Education Center Lobby.
- Missoula College Open House – Noon-2 p.m., 1205 E. Broadway St.
- Academic Convocation – 8-10 p.m., the Oval.

Thursday, Aug. 30

- Student Employment Fair – 9 a.m.-3 p.m., UC Ballroom.
- A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation Open House – 10 a.m.-noon, Forestry Building Lobby.
- Rainbow Welcome – 4-6 p.m., the Oval.
- Movie on the Oval: “Black Panther” – 9:30 p.m.-midnight, the Oval.

Friday, Aug. 31

- College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences Open House – 10 a.m.-noon, Skaggs Building Lobby.
- College of Visual and Performing Arts Open House – 10 a.m.-noon, Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.
- WelcomeFeast, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., the Oval.
- Laser Tag, 8-11 p.m., UC Ballroom.

Saturday, Sept. 1

- Griz Football Game – 7-10:30 p.m., Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Sunday, Sept. 2

- Paint the M – 10 a.m.-noon, M Trailhead.
- Carnival on the Oval, 7-10 p.m., the Oval.

For details on Griz Welcome, visit <https://www.umt.edu/grizwelcome/about/default.php>.

###

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UM Earns Top 25 'Best River and Lake Colleges' Ranking

August 08, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana ranked among the best universities in the nation for its “intimate kinship to water,” according to College Consensus’ recent survey.

UM, which ranked No. 23, was one of just six universities west of the Mississippi River to rank in the top 25 and the only Montana university to earn the ranking.

“With its location on the banks of the Clark Fork River, in the center of



one of the most rugged and unspoiled states in the union, the University of Montana is well-known as one of the best colleges for outdoors lovers and nature lovers,” authors of the ranking wrote.

Central to UM’s connection to water is Campus Recreation’s Outdoor Program, which takes students to locations all around Montana, the Rockies and beyond. The Outdoor Program also has an outdoor rental shop and rents gear off all kinds to students and the Missoula community to enable people to enjoy these places on their own as well.

“University of Montana students are extremely lucky to attend a college that is located right next to some of the most beautiful rivers and lakes in the country,” said Elizabeth Fricke, senior assistant director of the Outdoor Program. “Activities ranging from whitewater kayaking, rafting, stand-up paddleboarding, tubing, river surfing, fishing and swimming are literally right out of our front door, and the opportunities for river activities are plentiful for all levels.”

Universities’ roles in researching and restoring rivers also were considered in the ranking. UM is a leader in aquatic health research, and its River Center spearheads conservation efforts.

“The colleges and universities that are the closest to a river or lake seem to have a strong connection to the region and to the community; they can’t be insular when there’s water flowing all around,” the report authors said.

“Many of the lake and river colleges College Consensus has ranked have a deep relationship with the bodies of water – from researching and studying the wildlife, plants and geography to actively working to preserve, protect and restore rivers and lakes that have been damaged from human activity and neglect.”

The ranking is published online at <https://www.collegeconsensus.com/rankings/best-river-colleges/>.

###

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UM to Hold Orientation Aug. 22-24 for New Undergraduate Students

August 08, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will hold Fall Orientation in August for new undergraduate students starting at UM in fall semester 2018. Orientation will run Wednesday through Friday, Aug. 22-24. All new undergraduate students admitted to UM for fall semester are welcome to attend.

During Orientation, students can meet with faculty members and advisers in their academic departments; register for classes; meet peers in their incoming class and current UM student leaders; and learn about student services, opportunities and resources available at UM. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend a concurrent but separate program.

For more information about Fall Orientation or to register, visit <http://admissions.umt.edu/orientation> or call the UM Undergraduate Admissions Office at 406-243-6266 or 800-462-8636.

###

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MontanaPBS Announces Debates Featuring U.S. House, Senate Candidates

August 02, 2018

MISSOULA – MontanaPBS will host U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives candidate debates this fall.

Democratic incumbent Sen. Jon Tester and Republican Montana Auditor Matt Rosendale will discuss issues in **Missoula** as they face off for a seat in the U.S. Senate on Saturday, Sept. 29.

Republican incumbent Rep. Greg Gianforte will debate Democratic challenger Kathleen Williams on Saturday, Oct. 6, in **Bozeman**.

Both debates will broadcast at 7 p.m. across the state on MontanaPBS and will be studio-based without a live audience.

MontanaPBS journalists John Twiggs and Anna Rau will question the candidates and facilitate the discussion. The debates will be aired later on Montana Public Radio and Yellowstone Public Radio.

A unique format featuring an open discussion period will facilitate the exchange of ideas and policies. This debate

style cuts through the rhetoric, the advertising and the noise, with the two candidates sitting at the same table discussing the country's most important issues.

In the weeks preceding the debates, MontanaPBS and Montana Public Radio will solicit questions on social media from viewers and listeners to potentially ask the candidates.

"It is part of our MontanaPBS mission to inform the residents of our state," MontanaPBS General Manager Aaron Pruitt said. "We hope the debates will shed light on the candidates and their positions before Montanans cast their votes."

The selection of the candidates invited to participate in the debates adheres to MontanaPBS established Debate Participation Criteria, available for review at <http://www.montanapbs.org>.

The broadcast of the debates is made possible with production support from the Greater Montana Foundation, which encourages communications on issues, trends and values of importance to present and future generations of Montanans.

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/>.

###

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UM Flathead Lake Biological Station Receives Prestigious Stewardship Award

August 02, 2018

FLATHEAD LAKE – On the 60th anniversary of their organization’s founding, the Flathead Lakers presented their prestigious 2018 Stewardship Award to the University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station at their annual meeting. The Stewardship Award was given in recognition of the Bio Station’s sustained and outstanding contributions to the protection of Flathead Lake and its watershed.

“We have a lot to be proud of here,” said FLBS Director Jim Elser. “This is a really big honor and reflects the dedication, hard work and commitment of so many at FLBS.”

Since 1899, FLBS has served as “Sentinel of the Lake.” In 1977, it instituted a scientifically rigorous monitoring program that as the first line of defense against current and future threats to the health and quality of the Flathead watershed. These threats range from aquatic invasive species – like zebra and quagga mussels – to nutrient and biological pollution from degraded shoreline septic systems.

“Certainly the leadership of Jack Stanford and Bonnie Ellis in

establishing and maintaining the Flathead Monitoring Program was central,” Elser said. Stanford was FLBS director from 1980 to 2016. Ellis was a longtime research professor at the station who retired in 2014.

“The dedication of all FLBS staff and students over the years to doing great science and relating that science to our community is what this award acknowledges,” Elser said.



Flathead Lakers President Steve Rosso said it was an opportune time to recognize the impressive accomplishments of FLBS, and he reflected on the long partnership between the two organizations.

“We are very fortunate to have this exceptional research and education institution and its talented and collegial scientists and staff right here on Flathead Lake,” Rosso said. “Their research is the foundation for understanding our river and lake system and the natural resources they support.”

Research conducted at FLBS has been the informative force behind significant water quality conservation achievements, including the ban of phosphorus-containing detergents and the prevention of mining in the upper North Fork Flathead River. The long history of research and monitoring also has resulted in much scientific discovery and insight, cultivating one of the most robust ecological and water quality records in the world.

Formed in 1958, the Flathead Lakers is a nonprofit organization composed of Flathead-area residents who work to keep the lake clean and the local ecosystems healthy, as well as ensure a sustainable quality of life in the Flathead watershed. They provide leadership and support for the protection and improvement of water quality through advocacy, education and stewardship programs.

Learn more about FLBS at <https://flbs.umt.edu/>.

###

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Team of UM Scientists Brings Ocean Research Techniques to Flathead Lake

August 20, 2018

By Heather Fraley

FLBS Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism Intern at UM

FLATHEAD LAKE – John Ranieri remembers standing in the back of a 200-foot-long ship one night and feeling a kind of solitude he had never felt before. As the sea breeze brushed his face, he realized that if he fell off the ship, he would never be found. He was spending a month at sea on the Pacific Ocean, on his first ever research cruise. There were no other ships for miles, and over 30 days the only land animal he saw was one forlorn bird.

Ranieri is a member of a research team based at the University of Montana's Flathead Lake Biological Station near Polson, Montana. He works for Associate Professor Matt Church, an oceanographer

and aquatic scientist who studies microscopic life. Church came to UM's bio station from the University of Hawaii two years ago.

His Church Lab for Microbial Biogeochemistry and Ecology brings knowledge learned on the open ocean to Flathead Lake.

Church is among the leading researchers in ocean microbial ecology. His work is unique because he runs an oceanography lab that also does work on lakes. Most aquatic scientists work either on lakes or on oceans, creating two distinct camps of people, with little crossover.

"Ironically, many of the techniques or methodologies are directly transferable," Church says.

Some people in Church's lab have lake backgrounds and some have ocean backgrounds. They are finding that the "lake people" and the "ocean people" can learn a lot from one another.

Just as a ship in a bottle is a scaled-down version of a sea-going vessel, microbial research on the lake is somewhat like a scaled-down version of research on the ocean.

The lab's ocean sampling sites can be over three miles deep, vastly outstripping Flathead Lake's maximum depth of just under 400 feet. On the lake researchers use smaller boats, smaller research tools and far less cable.

One of the ocean research tools that the team is adapting for use in Flathead Lake will help them more efficiently collect water samples. The device, called a rosette, looks a little like a giant pack of dynamite. Several different



cylindrical water collection tubes are positioned around a circular frame, and the computer in the device is programmed to close each tube at different depths. These tubes collect an important piece of data from the water: microbes.

Why Study Microbes?

Church studies microbes from the clear, cold water of Flathead Lake that can't be seen by the naked eye. These include bacteria and single-celled organisms from several other taxonomic groups. The microscopic community in a lake is vital to how a lake functions as a whole, but it hasn't been extensively studied in Flathead Lake.

Microbes are tiny but mighty. They are like invisible maintenance elves that keep the world running smoothly. They are found everywhere on the planet, including under the earth's crust, on human bodies and in the atmosphere. Microbes are biologically old, on Earth for over 3 billion years. They can persist in dark, pressure-filled environments, can recycle nutrients and form the very bottom of the food chain.

Microbes are responsible for making the Earth a place that can sustain life, and ocean microbes produce half the oxygen in the atmosphere.

"We would not be here if it weren't for microorganisms," Church says.

Ranieri, who is a research associate and functions as a jack-of-all-trades for the Church Lab, performs much of the lake fieldwork. He says that people historically have viewed zooplankton as the bottom of the food chain, but microbes are even further down the rungs of the ladder.

"Microbes are even smaller, and even less people care about them," Ranieri jokes. "But the zooplankton are eating those microbes. If we can understand what changes the microbial community and what nutrients they're able to recycle at different times of the year, then that is ultimately going to affect the zooplankton communities, and that's going to affect the fish communities."

Flathead Lake is a well-known recreational fishery, so anything affecting the fish is of broad interest to the residents and visitors, as well as to agency managers and scientists.

The Church Lab is looking at how the microbial communities in the lake work. To do this, researchers are using genetic techniques similar to those commonly used in ocean research. By analyzing the DNA in the water samples they collect, they look at which microbes are present where in the lake and how many there are at different depths during changing seasons.

Soon the researchers plan to start using metagenomics. Where genetic techniques look at specific genes of an organism, genomics look at the entire genetic profile of an organism – the compilation of all the genes – to decode what ecological functions that organism might perform.

Church's graduate student Kate Evans will be helping with this project. She loves using math and computer modeling. She also will work with a lot of long-term time series data.

Time Matters

One of the team's goals is to start tracking changes in the lake's microbial communities over time. The scientists will add their genetic and genomic data to the long-term Flathead Lake Monitoring Program ongoing since the late 70s. Evans is looking forward to modeling some of the long-term data to find out what's controlling certain patterns.

"There are a lot of really rigorous math ways that you can get into it that are often untapped," she says.

Long-term projects are particularly attractive to Church because they put new data into context and can generate future research questions. Church has been involved in another long-term monitoring project, the Hawaii Ocean Time-series (HOT) program, where he served as the principal investigator, and his lab continues to conduct research as part of a project called Simons Collaboration on Ocean Processes and Ecology (SCOPE) at a time-series field site located 62 miles north of the island of Oahu in Hawaii.

What Does it Take to be an Ocean and Lake Researcher?

Joining Church's Lab is not for the faint of heart. All of the members are stress-tested on research adventures like ocean research cruises. Church calculates that he's spent a combined one year of his life on the open ocean, and he even met his wife, Holly, on an ocean research cruise. His longest research cruise – 48 days – was in the Antarctic.

"I encourage people who are working with me to go out to sea, and I think it's sort of a once-in-a-lifetime kind of opportunity," he says.

Church encouraged Ranieri to experience ocean research, and he has the perfect personality for it. Ranieri gives the sense that not much fazes him. He also possesses an important trait for surviving ocean cruises: a good sense of humor. (One of his running jokes is to steal one decoration per holiday from the office door of a particularly holiday-minded co-worker. His office nameplate now sports a shiny green shamrock and sparkling red heart).

Every member of the lab also has jaw-dropping amounts of research experience at the cutting edge of their fields.

Emma Wear is a postdoctoral researcher in Church's lab. Wear met Church at the University of Hawaii when she was working on her Ph.D. and took his microbial oceanography summer class. When Church moved from Hawaii to the Biological Station and advertised for postdocs, she immediately applied.

Wear just finished her first month-long ocean cruise with Church in June, funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, a private foundation interested in biological conservation.

This most recent cruise focused on the ecosystem at the very bottom of the ocean, known as the abyssal sea floor. Other than surface fishing, this ecosystem is virtually undisturbed by human activity. It's escaped dramatic alteration because it's so deep under the surface.

The goal of the research cruise was to catalogue the organisms present in the ecosystem before the start of some planned deep-sea mining. Wear catalogued manganese nodules. These are mysterious slow-forming growths of manganese and other metals packed together that grow at the rate of millimeters per millions of years.

Wear says that the thrill of discovery was part of what made the cruise so alluring for her. She's interested in how

dissolved carbon like proteins and detritus from dead animals cycles in the water. Carbon cycling at the surface of the ocean is well-known because it's all based on sunlight, but what's less-known is what drives microbes in the deep ocean sediments where the sun doesn't reach.

While Wear usually samples surface water, this time she worked with sea-floor sediments.

The particular area the crew reached is remote in distance, as well as in depth. It took Church and Wear four days of continuous boat travel just to reach the sampling site.

"That's why it's a month-long cruise," says Wear. "By the time you get out there, you might as well stay there for a while."

Being on this ocean cruise presented some striking challenges for Wear.

For example, the frustrating part of sediment collection was that the sediments sometimes were too sandy to stay in the collection tube on the remotely operated unmanned underwater vehicle.

Wear would stay up at all hours collecting samples. Watching her precious sample fall out of the collection tube in the wee morning hours was frustrating.

"It's less funny at 3 o'clock in the morning," she says.

Another challenge that took some getting used to on a long-term cruise was the lack of space to walk. She usually walks her dog every day. On the boat there was really nowhere to go.

She also missed the color green.

"You don't see green things for a full month other than the salad bar," she says. "Then eventually the salad bar starts rotting and goes away. It's great being back here in the summer, because I get to see all the green stuff that I missed."

She agrees that there are parallels between ocean and lake research, and that an ocean background can make her that much more qualified to study lakes.

She says researchers are asking similar questions in both environments about microbial metabolism, and they are using some of the same techniques. Wear, who is an "ocean person," will be involved in the genomics research on Flathead Lake, while she continues to do work on the ocean following the cruise.

Trista Vick-Majors is another postdoc in Church's lab. She also met Church through his summer microbial oceanography class in Hawaii. She's overcome motion sickness to go on a two-week ocean cruise, but as a "lake person," the majority of her background lies in studying microbes in ice-covered Antarctic lakes.

During her Ph.D. research, she was part of a crew that did some of the first sampling of subglacial lake water. Her team used a giant hot water drill to put a hole through the Antarctic ice sheet and drop sampling gear 800 meters down to the water. Vick-Majors was among the first to definitively show that there were microbes in Antarctic

subglacial lake water.

“There are plenty of them,” she says with a smile, as she pours liquid into a graduated cylinder in the Bio Station lab.

Vick-Majors currently investigates if microbes are responsible for producing extra methane found in the water of Flathead Lake.

The lab’s theory is that certain microbes in the lake can separate methyl groups from organic compounds to produce extra methane. Church has done research on this phenomenon in the ocean, and now he’s finding it may apply in Flathead Lake as well. Vick-Majors is feeding lake microbes a compound called methylphosphonate and looking for production of methane.

Methane is thought to be produced exclusively by microbes growing without oxygen, but Flathead Lake is well-oxygenated. The possibility that methane is produced in well-oxygenated lake water is exciting. It opens up a whole new pathway of methane production.

Since methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, this research is important in the face of changing climate.

For Ranieri, working for Church has been a great experience. The ocean cruise made him feel like a real scientist straight off the Discovery Channel that he watched as a kid.

Part of the reason he came to the Flathead Lake Biological Station was to join a place full of opportunities for collaboration and innovation. His previous experience working on wildlife biology projects showed him how easy it can be to focus on one thing and not look at the other pieces of ecosystem. He enjoys the crossover between lake and ocean work.

“It’s cool how much overlap there is,” he says, “and how when you bring those two knowledge bases together, you can really understand a lot more about the lake in a faster time.”

For further updates on the research conducted at the Church Lab, or for more information about the recent deep-sea research expedition in the Pacific Ocean, visit the Biological Station website at <https://flbs.umt.edu/>.

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