September 2018 news releases

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UM Physical Therapy to Hold Second Skeleton Skedaddle

September 28, 2018

MISSOULA – The Physical Therapy Student Association at the University of Montana will hold its second Skeleton Skedaddle on Sunday, Oct. 28, on the Oval.

The Skeleton Skedaddle 5K and 1K run/walk will provide a fun public event for all ages and abilities to showcase Halloween costumes and have the chance to win prizes. The race is all-inclusive and ADA accessible.

The race serves as a fundraiser to assist physical therapy students with travel expenses to attend the Physical Therapy Combined Sections Meeting and National Student Conclave. These national conferences provide opportunities for students to present research, network with future employers and stay informed as future health care professionals.

Last year’s inaugural Skeleton Skedaddle had more than 200 participants and raised nearly $5,000.

This year’s 1K race starts at 2:15 p.m. and costs $15 ($20 after Thursday, Oct. 11). The 5K race starts at 3 p.m. and costs $25 ($30 after Oct. 11). Register at http://www.runsignup.com/skeletonskedaddle5K.
MISSOULA – The Department of History at the University of Montana will hold its 2018 Swanberg Lecture in Military History at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre.

Professor Robert Citino will speak about “The Big Collapse: The German Military in 1945.”

Citino serves as the Samuel Zemurray Stone Senior Historian at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. He has received numerous awards for
teaching and scholarship throughout his career, including the Distinguished Book Award in 2013 from the Society for Military History and the Paul Birdsall Prize in 2005 from the American Historical Association. Some of the books he has published include “The Wehrmacht’s Last Stand,” “The German Way of War” and “The Path to Blitzkrieg.”

Citino also will deliver a more informal presentation on “Hitler’s Gang: The War Guilt of the German Generals” at 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room.

Both talks are free and open to the public. For more information email UM history Professor Robert Greene at robert.greene@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Robert Greene, chair and associate professor, UM Department of History, robert.greene@umontana.edu.
UM Research to Focus on Muscles of Bird Flight

September 27, 2018

MISSOULA – There are two primary types of muscles. Skeletal muscles allow one to raise a limb or walk. Smooth muscles, such as those in the walls of blood vessels or the iris of an eye, are not under conscious control and do their work almost automatically.

A new National Science Foundation grant presented to the University of Montana and the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) will allow...
researchers to explore how smooth muscles control feathers and help birds fly.

"We have been fascinated by the capacity of birds to change the shape of their wings from one instant to the next," said Bret Tobalske, a UM scientist and director of the Field Research Station. "Skeletal muscle is relatively well studied, but we are going in a novel direction by focusing on smooth bird muscle."

Tobalske said they will begin studying body contour feathers – areas similar to the ruff of a pheasant’s neck. Work at UM eventually will then focus smooth-muscle activity in the wings of pigeons during flight.

Tobalske’s partner in the work is Tobin Hieronymus at NEOMED. Their award is an Early concept Grant for Exploratory Research (EAGER) grant, which supports exploratory work in its early stages on untested but potentially transformative research ideas or approaches.

“If Tobin and I succeed, our efforts will transform understanding of limb control by revealing, for the first time, the role of smooth muscle,” Tobalske said.

The title of their grant is “Establishing the Feasibility of Avian Feather Muscles as a Study System for Neuromotor Control.”

###

**Contact:** Bret Tobalske, UM associate professor of biological sciences, director of the Field Research Station, 406-243-6631, bret.tobalske@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana Alumni Association and the Civic Engagement office are recruiting volunteers to help paint the M on Wednesday, Oct. 3, as part of Homecoming week.

Participants will meet at the M trailhead at 4 p.m. Oct. 3 and hike up the mountain to give the M a fresh coat of paint. Volunteers should come dressed to get dirty. After the work is completed, participants are invited to enjoy hot dogs and Big Dipper ice cream in the trailhead parking lot.

Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.
RSVPs are requested at http://grizalum.org/events/Homecoming/paint-the-m.php.

All painting supplies will be provided and the paint for this project has been generously donated by Rodda Paint.

For more information call UM’s Civic Engagement Associate Director Colleen Kane at 406-243-5128 or email colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu.

###

Contact: Colleen Kane, associate director, UM Civic Engagement, 406-243-5128, colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The National Science Foundation has awarded the University of Montana funding to stimulate STEM research and innovation with commercialization potential.

The three-year grant is expected to total $218,000 and will establish the University of Montana as an I-Corps Site.

“The UM I-Corps Site will capitalize on the success of the Blackstone LaunchPad powered by Techstars entrepreneurship program at the University of Montana,” said Blackstone LaunchPad Director Paul Gladen, who will serve as one of the UM principal investigators. “It will foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem at UM and continue to develop the strong entrepreneurial culture and community in Montana.”

The other principal investigators are:

- Scott Mills, UM associate vice president of research for global change and sustainability and professor of wildlife biology;
- Jakki Mohr, Regents Professor of Marketing with the UM College of Business;
NSF Grant Awarded to Establish University of Montana I-Corps Site - UM News - University Of Montana

- Monica Serban, assistant professor in Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences;
- and Dr. Travis Wheeler, assistant professor of Computer Science.

“This award signals that UM has a credible presence in developing an entrepreneurial culture and builds on the great work being done by our community,” Mohr said. “I’m thrilled to be able to participate in continuing these efforts.”

The program’s key objectives are:

1. Expand participation in entrepreneurship from UM students, postdocs, staff and faculty in STEM fields and build entrepreneurial skills;
2. Increase participation of women, Native Americans, and other underrepresented groups in both STEM fields and entrepreneurship;
3. Increase commercialization success of STEM innovation at UM;
4. Generate strong STEM teams that are well-prepared for National I-Corps training; and
5. Develop and assess programming that fosters an entrepreneurial ecosystem in a rural setting.

The UM I-Corps Site will facilitate the creation of Entrepreneurial Teams, with Entrepreneurial Leads from STEM fields. Teams will be provided with Exploration Grants to facilitate exploration of commercialization potential through customer discovery. Teams will use existing resources at BLPT-UM and undergo STEM-specific training based on Lean LaunchPad methodology as they develop entrepreneurial skills and become a part of the unique entrepreneurial community in Missoula.

Serban said she believes “this grant gives UM the opportunity to identify and train future entrepreneurs to maximize the potential of in-house developed innovation and to give back to the community by boosting the local economy.”

The Blackstone LaunchPad powered by Techstars entrepreneurship program helps University of Montana students succeed. Open to all students and alumni in all majors, the campus-based Blackstone LaunchPad powered by Techstars enables participants to connect with mentors, grow their network and access the resources to accelerate the success of their business.

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**Contact:** Paul Gladen, director, UM Blackstone LaunchPad powered by Techstars, 406-396-3534, paul.gladen@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – As the University of Montana continues efforts to align resources to most effectively meet the needs of its students, it today released a plan which details instructional staffing budget targets for the University’s academic units over the coming three years, while affirming the institution’s commitment to continued academic excellence.

“The University of Montana is committed to providing the highest quality instruction and a transformative student experience,” UM President Seth Bodnar said. “We have fewer students enrolled at UM than we did 10 years ago, and fewer students means we require fewer instructional resources to deliver our programs with the same exceptional quality.

“This plan is the result of a multiyear process our campus has engaged in to align our resources to best meet the needs of our current students,” Bodnar said. “While our overall budget detailed in this plan is smaller, our per-student investment in instruction is higher in every school and college than it was a decade ago.”

In close collaboration with faculty, staff and student leadership, UM officials designed the staffing and budget plan
by analyzing average student-to-faculty ratios from 2009 to 2013. Using 2018 enrollment data, they determined the instructional staffing budgets that would be required to achieve similar student-to-faculty ratios today. Budgets for each academic unit were further adjusted based on strategic reinvestment considerations before the final instructional staffing budget targets were set for departments to achieve by the end of fiscal year 2021.

“While we realize that this planning requires difficult decisions, we must adjust our instructional staffing to align with our enrollment,” said Jon Harbor, UM executive vice president and provost. “Even with these new budget targets, UM will still be spending more per student than we did 10 years ago. We can make these adjustments and still maintain – and even enhance – the high quality of our programs and student experience.”

Harbor noted that the plan balances matching faculty-to-student demand and a set of strategic priorities. He said the plan builds on the work of the Strategic Planning Coordinating Council, the Academic Programs and Administrative Services Prioritization, and the University Planning Committee.

“This plan allows us to allocate our resources to best meet the needs of our students and the size of our institution today, while also ensuring that quality and excellence across our programs continue to grow,” he said.

Evidence of UM’s academic excellence abounds. U.S. News & World Report recently ranked UM the No. 1 university in Montana, and it listed UM’s College of Business as the best in the Big Sky Conference. Other recent academic achievements include UM’s Wildlife Biology Program being ranked as the best in North America by Academic Analytics.

Harbor said UM will implement the plan over several years, and that staffing targets are designed for attainment by June 30, 2021, in order to impact the FY 2022 budget.

“Our goal was to provide as much time as we could so that deans and chairs can fully consider a wide range of options to support their programs, and then implement them over several years,” he said. “Planned faculty departures can also inform staffing plans.”

With the targets now released, academic units will develop recommendations for instructional staffing plans to meet the targets over the coming three years.

**Instructional staffing budget targets are online at:** [http://www.umt.edu/provost/docs/UMInstrTgts2021.pdf](http://www.umt.edu/provost/docs/UMInstrTgts2021.pdf)

###

**Contact:** Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana Alumni Association invites all alumni and the Missoula community to celebrate Homecoming week 2018 Oct. 1-6. This year’s theme is “Montana Strong.”

Festivities begin with the Homecoming Kickoff Celebration from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1, in the JCPenney Court in Southgate Mall. Participants can grab a Griz football team poster and tattoos, meet Monte, dance with the UM Spirit Squad and UM Drum Line, and enter to win the Great Griz Game Day Package.

The celebration continues from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, with the traditional Hello Walk painting on the sidewalk outside Turner Hall. UMAA will provide paint and brushes, and members of the public are invited to join students and alumni.

Volunteers also may register online to help paint the M from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3. Volunteers must be 18 years or older and can enjoy Big Dipper ice cream and hot dogs in the Phyllis Washington Park afterward.

The Lommasson Center again will hold a Homecoming Buffet Dinner open to the public at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4,
Celebrate a ‘Montana Strong’ Community at UM Homecoming Oct. 1-6 - UM News - University Of Montana

in the Food Zoo. The cost is $8.80 per person.

Also that evening, Draught Works Brewery will host a Homecoming Griz on Tap Social from 5 to 7 p.m. at 915 Toole Ave.

Five Distinguished Alumni Award recipients will be honored at a ceremony and reception at 5:30 pm. Friday, Oct. 5, in the University Center Ballroom. This year’s Distinguished Alumni are Evelyn Adedoja Yeye Dada, Paul Lewing, William Marcus, Sara Peck and Sheila Skemp.

The annual Yell Night Pep Rally will begin at 8 p.m. on the Oval that evening, followed by the lighting of the M. The community can join the Griz football team, Forestry Club, UM Marching Band, Spirit Squad and Monte for a bonfire, Singing on the Steps and a fireworks display. Free popcorn and soda will be provided.

New this year, luminaria may be purchased online in honor of an alum to be lit during the Pep Rally.

An All-Alumni Social also will run Friday night from 7 p.m. to midnight with live music, food and a no-host bar at the Holiday Inn in Downtown Missoula. The UM Alumni Band will perform, as well as the Alumni Jazz Band and the UM Marching Band.

The 11th annual Homecoming Hustle 5K race will begin at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at Higgins and Broadway, just before the parade. Register for the Homecoming Hustle online by Oct. 4. The $28 fee includes a T-shirt, BBQ and beverages at the finish line.

The Homecoming Parade starts at 10 a.m. and travels south on Higgins to University Avenue. This year’s honorary parade marshals are Betsy and Warren Wilcox and Cheryl and Mark Burnham.

The community may enjoy food, beverages and raffles at the All-Alumni Homecoming Tailgate from noon to 2 p.m. in Lot 2 in the River Bowl North, right before the Montana Grizzlies face-off against Portland State University at 2 p.m. in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Homecoming activities are fully funded by the UM Alumni Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and its dedicated members and sponsors.

For a complete and updated schedule of Homecoming events, visit https://grizalum.org/events/Homecoming/default.php or call the UM Office of Alumni Relations at 406-243-5211.

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Contact: Angela Weisenburger, events coordinator, UM Office of Alumni Relations, 406-243-5211, angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu.
Celebrate a ‘Montana Strong’ Community at UM Homecoming Oct. 1-6 - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Researcher Lands $1.5 Grant to Study Small-Farmer Land Use

September 26, 2018

MISSOULA – Rising global demand for food has led to conversion of forests and other natural habitats to farmland, with serious consequences for climate and water.

University of Montana Associate Professor Katrina Mullan recently was awarded a $1.45 million grant from the National Science
Foundation to study interactions between climate, water availability and the land-use decisions made by small farmers.

“Finding ways to increase agricultural output while limiting negative environmental impacts requires understanding the dynamic feedbacks between the production choices of individual farmers, regional climate and water variability, and farmers’ vulnerability to water stress,” Mullan said.

An environmental economist, Mullan will work with climate scientists, hydrologists, other social scientists and veterinary scientists from six universities in the U.S. and Brazil. The team will study how clearing forests for agriculture affects the regional hydroclimate and how that affects “green” water, in the form of soil moisture, and “blue” water, in the form of surface or groundwater.

They will then collect survey data to understand how farmers’ responses to water scarcity impact their production and land use, and they will develop a model of how these individual decisions combine to determine the regional landscape – as well as the extent to which land-use decisions generate feedbacks to regional water cycles.

“Research with people from other academic disciplines is hard because you tend to see the world from very different perspectives, so you have to understand each other’s perspective before you can actually get to the science,” said Mullan, who regularly works with researchers from other fields. “At the same time, this type of collaboration is often the only way to answer important questions about how human behavior affects the environment in situations where environmental conditions are simultaneously affecting human behavior.”

The research will be based on a case study of private properties in the state of Rondônia, Brazil, where deforestation of the Amazon rainforest to create cropland and pasture has led to increased agricultural production and rising
incomes for farmers, but also has raised significant environmental concerns.

“This work will help us understand the tradeoffs between the environmental costs associated with converting wildland to crop fields and pasture and the benefits of increased agricultural production and higher farm incomes,” Mullan said. “It also will demonstrate new ways of modeling the feedbacks between human decisions and water availability and of linking data and models at the household and landscape scales. These approaches can then be applied by researchers in many different settings.”

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock congratulated Mullan on earning the grant.

“I appreciate your commitment, and it is because of Montanans like you that my administration has the research to make informed decisions about agriculture policy in the state,” Bullock wrote. “I wish you all the best on your project, and I am eager to see the results of your work.”

###

**Contact:** Katrina Mullan, UM economics associate professor, 406-243-4655, katrina.mullan@mso.umt.edu.
UM Researcher Lands $1.5 Grant to Study Small-Farmer Land Use - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – An award-winning investigative journalist, who is in residence at the University of Montana School of Journalism this semester, will deliver a lecture Monday, Oct. 8, on the importance of telling the stories of people entangled in social justice issues.

Ben Montgomery, the fall T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professor at UM, will present “Enemy of the [Bad] People” at 7 p.m. in the University Center Theater. The talk is free and open to the public.

Montgomery, a former enterprise reporter for the Tampa Bay Times and founder of the popular narrative journalism website Gangrey.com, is teaching a course on investigative techniques and narrative writing. He
also serves as an adviser to students at the Montana Kaimin newspaper.

As a reporter for the St. Petersburg Times, Montgomery and a colleague were finalists for a Pulitzer Prize for local reporting in 2010 for their series about decades of abuse at a Florida reform school for boys.

He’s won a number of other national awards, including a Columbia University Dart Award for reporting about trauma and a Casey medal for reporting on disadvantaged youth and families. He was also a finalist in 2011 for a Livingston Award, which honors outstanding work by journalists under the age of 35.

Montgomery was most recently a reporter for the Tampa Bay Times. His final investigative project before leaving in November was titled “Why Cops Shoot,” a review of six years of Florida police shootings that revealed how fear and bias breeds confusion, how order quickly dissolves into chaos and ways to avert the violence.

His third and most recent book, “The Man Who Walked Backward: An American Dreamer’s Search for Meaning in the Great Depression,” was released this month.

The professorship was created in 2001 to honor the memory of T. Anthony Pollner, a 1999 School of Journalism graduate who died in a motorcycle accident in England.

###

**Contact:** Denise Dowling, interim dean, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-4143, [denise.dowling@mso.umt.edu](mailto:denise.dowling@mso.umt.edu).
Pollner Professor to Discuss Role of Storytelling in Social Justice Reporting - UM News - University Of Montana

“Montana Economic Minute” is produced each business day by BBER Director Patrick Barkey and airs on radio stations around the state. The podcast focuses on both local and national economic issues, including real estate, taxes, tourism and business.

The inclusion of the “Montana Economic Minute” in the Top 25 list by Intelligent Economist marks the third consecutive year the podcast has made it in the list, appearing among high-profile podcasts such as “Freakonomics” and “The Economist Radio.”

“The bureau’s talented economists are at the top of their field and so provide shrewd coverage of financial data – economic forecasts for both Montana and the whole country,” according to Prateek Agarwal of Intelligent Economist.
Current BBER podcasts are available for download at http://bber.umt.edu/rss/default.asp.

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**Contact:** Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, patrick.barkey@umontana.edu.
MMAC Exhibition to Unveil Renowned Artworks from Copper King’s Collection

September 25, 2018

MISSOULA – Eight pieces of artwork from the estate of a Montana “Copper King” will go on view publicly Thursday, Oct. 4, when “The William A. Clark Collection: A Homecoming” exhibition opens at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at the University of Montana.

The opening reception will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Oct. 4 in the Performing Arts/Radio Television Center lobby. The works will be on display through June 15, 2019. The exhibition also will feature programs highlighting the life and times of Clark.

The works from famous painters – including Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, Jean-Charles Cazin, Jules Dupré, Jean-Honoré Fragonard, Thomas Gainsborough and a sculpture attributed to Donatello – recently were acquired and are now part of the Montana Museum of Art & Culture’s Permanent Collection.

They once belonged to the estate of Clark, a former Montana senator with expensive taste and the wealth to
satisfy it. Born to Scotch-Irish parents in Pennsylvania in 1839, he eventually made his way out West, working the roles of farmer, teacher, soldier, prospector, woodcutter, teamster, cattle driver, grocer, mining engineer, banker and eventually a real estate tycoon and railroad magnate.

Through his latter jobs, he rose in notoriety to become one the most powerful and influential 19th-century Americans. His peers included John D. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan and Andrew Carnegie. He built the most expensive home ever assembled in New York City.

When he died in 1925, his fortune was estimated at more than $200 million – equivalent to nearly $3 billion in contemporary terms.

His family donated his eclectic collection of primarily 19th-century French artwork to the private Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington, D.C., after the Metropolitan Art Museum in New York turned it down.

The collection included almost 200 paintings, plus sculptures, tapestries, rugs, antiquities, stained-glass windows and a Louis XVI-era salon. Using funds donated by the Clark family, Architect Charles Platt designed a new wing for the Corcoran to house the collection. The Clark Wing was completed and opened to the public in 1928.

Due to financial challenges, the Corcoran – which sat across the street from the White House – was shuttered in 2014, and nearly 20,000 works from its collection were distributed.

The National Gallery of Art received the largest donation at 8,596 pieces, and the NGA was tasked with distributing the balance of the works they did not take into their own collection to other institutions, mostly in the D.C. area. However, an exception was made for a few important pieces to transfer to Montana and into the Permanent Collection of UM’s MMAC.

“The trustees were pleased and honored to make this contribution to the Montana Museum of Art and Culture,” said Harry
Hopper, chairman of the Corcoran Board of Trustees. “Senator Clark and his family, through their century-plus commitment to and love for the Corcoran, hold a very special place in the history and life of the Corcoran. For these works to find a permanent home in Montana is perfect.”

MMAC received three paintings by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, two by Jean-Charles Cazin, one by Jules Dupré, one by Jean-Honoré Fragonard, one by Thomas Gainsborough and a sculpture attributed to Donatello. Eight of the nine pieces MMAC received will be on display in this inaugural exhibition. The ninth piece is being sent to Seattle for conservation repairs and will rejoin the Permanent Collection when the work is complete.

MMAC Director Barbara Koostra said the museum is proud to steward these important pieces and that important supporters already are offering funding for preservation of the pieces.

“Several wonderful donors have already stepped up to frame and conserve these pieces already and we're so grateful,” Koostra said. “The wealth that Clark acquired to purchase them was in part derived from Montana's land and people. We are proud these masterworks will be in Montana permanently and hope that others will offer their additional financial support as we preserve them for generations to come.”

MMAC is home to more than 11,000 works of art. An international collection, it belongs to all Montanans. MMAC's academic year 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 Sunday, Monday and UM holidays. The museum is open to the public with a suggested $5 donation. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/.

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Contact: Barbara Koostra, Suzanne and Bruce Crocker director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu; Jeremy Canwell, MMAC curator of art, 406-243-2019, jeremy.canwell@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Host Talk on Immigration, Refugees Oct. 2

September 25, 2018

**MISSOULA** – As the Trump administration has dropped the number of refugees who can enter the U.S. next year to 30,000 – the lowest number in recent history – the University of Montana will bring an expert on immigration policy to lecture on campus.

Georgetown University scholar Susan Martin will speak on “U.S. Immigration and Refugee Policy in the Trump Era” at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, in Liberal Arts Building Room 011. The talk is free and open to the public.

Martin is the Donald G. Herzberg Professor Emerita in International Migration and founder of the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown. She also chairs the Thematic Working Group on
Environmental Change and Migration at the World Bank. Previously, she was executive director of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, mandated by law to advise Congress and the President on immigration and refugee policy.

Martin is the author of numerous publications and currently is working on the second edition of her book, “A Nation of Immigrants.” She holds a Ph.D. in the history of American civilization from the University of Pennsylvania.

The talk is sponsored by UM’s Global Public Health program, the departments of Political Science and History, the School of Journalism, the Franke Global Leadership Initiative and International Development Studies.

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**Contact:** Gillian Glaes, UM visiting associate professor in history, African-American studies and the Franke Global Leadership Initiative, 406-546-8966, gillian.glaes@mso.umt.edu.
UM Researchers Find Precipitation Thresholds Regulate Carbon Exchange

September 25, 2018

MISSOULA – One of the major sources of uncertainty about the future climate is whether ecosystems will continue to take up carbon dioxide or release it to the atmosphere. University of Montana researchers and co-authors confronted this problem using atmospheric measurements and satellite observations to test model simulations in a recent study published on Sept. 5 in Nature Communications.

W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation Research Scientist Zhihua Liu and colleagues compared atmospheric measurements and satellite observations to climate change model simulations to help better predict terrestrial carbon dynamics across the contiguous United States.
Ecosystems either soak up carbon through photosynthesis – a negative feedback that could reduce future warming – or release it through respiration – a positive feedback that could enhance future warming. Understanding how climate change might impact ecosystem photosynthesis and respiration is critical for predicting future carbon dynamics.

Liu's team discovered that whether ecosystems across the U.S. uptake carbon or release it is dependent on water availability. The primary control switches from production to respiration at an annual precipitation threshold between 30 and 35 inches in the contiguous United States. The carbon balance of ecosystems in the dry West is very sensitive to photosynthesis. In contrast, the carbon balance of more mesic Eastern U.S. ecosystems is more sensitive to carbon lost through respiration.

However, climate models do not reflect this precipitation threshold. Liu and his co-authors determined that these models are far too sensitive to photosynthesis and not sensitive enough to respiration, suggesting the Earth’s ecosystems may lose more carbon to the atmosphere in the future as surface temperatures continue to warm.

"In different regions, the interannual variation of net carbon uptake is primarily impacted by different processes – respiration or photosynthesis," Liu said. “To me, the most important part of this study is that the models need improvement on respiration.”

Co-author and UM bioclimatology Associate Professor Ashely Ballantyne adds, “This study suggests we know more about the negative feedback loop and less about the positive one.”

This work is part of the National Ecological Observatory...
UM Researchers Find Precipitation Thresholds Regulate Carbon Exchange - UM News - University Of Montana

Network, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, which provides open data in an effort to understand how aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems are changing. This study can be found online at https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-05948-1.

Contact: Zhihua Liu, research scientist, UM W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, zhihua.liu@umontana.edu.
UM Graduate Student Earns Prestigious Diversity Research Supplement

September 25, 2018

MISSOULA – Shelby Cole – a first-year Master of Science student in the Cellular, Molecular, and Microbial Biology graduate program at the University of Montana – recently was awarded a Diversity Research Supplement by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The grant will fund her thesis research project studying innate lymphoid cells for the next two years.

Cole is Malta native and a member of the Gros Ventre and Little Shell tribes of north-central Montana. Her research skills already have been recognized: As an undergraduate student at UM, she received a Diversity Research Supplement grant from the National Institutes of
Health to work in the laboratory of Dr. David Shepherd to study targeted drug delivery systems.

This recent funding comes as an administrative supplement to UM Research Faculty Celine Beamer’s three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, through which her team studies innate lymphoid cells – cells that play a pivotal role in balancing immune responses in the lungs. The team’s ultimate goal is to develop drugs that help control immune responses in the lungs – whether limiting chronic inflammation, combating an infectious disease or blocking the detrimental effects of environmental pollutants.

The Diversity Research Supplement will support Cole to work in the laboratory full time, as well as provide her with incidental money to offset the costs of traveling to conferences to present her research to other scientists in the field. The award requires the University to provide mentorship for Cole – which is being provided by Dr. Beamer and UM’s Native American Center of Excellence – and outreach opportunities that will offer Cole the chance to visit schools and share her research with people across Montana, including Native communities.

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Contact: Sara Jestrab, program coordinator, UM Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics, 406-243-6003, sara.jestrab@umontana.edu.
UM Chemist, Students Take Flight with Groundbreaking Wildfire Emission Study

MISSOULA – Most aircraft slicing through the smoke above wildfires either drop water or smokejumpers in an effort to manage fire on the ground. But one plane – a flying laboratory carrying researchers from the University of Montana – has the capacity to change what we know about future fires.

This summer, the four-engine cargo plane spent more than 100 hours slicing through smoke above fires burning in the West, collecting data about the chemical composition of
smoke and how it changes over time and travel.

The National Science Foundation National Center for Atmospheric Research C-130 research aircraft (http://bit.ly/2OC2vqr) was based in Boise, Idaho this summer, but it sampled wildfire plumes in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada and Montana. The results will provide a new understanding of air quality and how it may affect populations downwind.

Assistant Professor Lu Hu from UM’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, along with four UM graduate students, are part of the research team funded to work on the study through a multimillion-dollar collaborative NSF project called the Western Wildfire Experiment for Cloud Chemistry, Aerosol Absorption and Nitrogen, or WE-CAN. It is the “largest, most comprehensive attempt to date to measure and analyze wildfire smoke,” according to the NSF. More information on the project is online at http://bit.ly/2OCskXq.

Hu and his atmospheric chemistry group are leading the investigation into chemistry and emission of organic pollutants from smoke. The team deployed UM’s new mass spectrometer on the C-130 research aircraft.

This instrument provided real-time measurements of volatile organic compounds in wildfire smoke and more insight into organic gas composition than previously possible. The emissions from wildfires are typically toxic, and they can form ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter, which are linked to serious health impacts and regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“We expect to observe many toxic species from smoke that had been rarely characterized or reported before,” Hu said. “This unprecedented and rich dataset will help us better predict air quality downwind and understand how fire smoke impacts the climate system.”
Back in the lab on campus, Hu and his team focus to interpret how cloud chemistry, aerosol absorption and reactive nitrogen in wildfire plumes affect air quality, nutrient cycles, weather, climate and the health of those exposed to smoke.

The collaborative study includes researchers from Colorado State University, the University of Colorado-Boulder, the University of Wyoming, the University of Washington and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

As part of this project, Hu teaches students aircraft observations in UM's new Atmospheric Chemistry course. This educational initiative is co-led by Professor Emily Fischer of Colorado State University and Professor Shane Murphy of University of Wyoming. There are more than 30 students across three universities in the course, including seven students from UM.

The class brings the C-130 flying laboratory into a classroom. Students learn about the aircraft-based mission design and flight planning, and they just planned and executed three flights with the C-130 aircraft in early September. Last week, UM students traveled to Broomfield, Colorado, and visited other state-of-the-science laboratories of NCAR along with their educational flight.

Students will present what they learned from their educational flight later in the semester.

“Bringing cutting-edge research into a classroom is very fun and a great experience for both students and instructors,” Hu said. “Opportunities for aircraft observations being taught and experienced in a classroom are almost zero due to reasons like the limited accessibility and perceived high expense. I am just extremely happy that our UM students are involved in this rare and valuable educational opportunity.”

The course is sponsored by the UM College of Humanities & Sciences Toelle-Bekken Family Memorial Fund Award and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

For more information on the project, call Hu at 406-243-4231, email lu.hu@mso.umt.edu or visit http://hs.umt.edu/luhu.
Contact: Lu Hu, assistant professor of atmospheric chemistry, UM Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, 406-243-4231, lu.hu@mso.umt.edu.
Dean Retracts Warning About Deep Cuts to UMArts

September 24, 2018

MISSOULA – On Monday, Stephen Kalm, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Montana, clarified misinformation sent by the director of the School of Music over the weekend concerning steep cuts and possible program eliminations within the college. The inaccurate message was sent broadly to the arts community, donors, alumni, and current and prospective students in Missoula and beyond, expressing concern about the future of the arts at UM.

“I am pleased to report that my fears for the future of art, music, and theatre and dance at UM were unfounded,” Kalm wrote in the latest email on Monday, Sept. 24.

In his clarification, Kalm explained, “In our initial meeting, the provost’s comments on budget targets were stated in general terms. I learned in my meeting with Provost Jon Harbor on Monday that the budget targets are more closely aligned with the plan that I presented last spring. While we still have challenges ahead, it is far more palatable than I originally anticipated. The plan allows us to maintain accreditation and the continuation of UMArts.”

Harbor said the initial emails from both Kalm and Ramey were factually inaccurate.
“Deans from every school and college across campus are engaged in funding discussions,” he said. “We are early in this process, and no firm funding decisions have been finalized or announced. We will continue to work together to assess the available data, strategic goals and our institutional mission. Outcomes of this important work will be data-informed and come after collaborative deliberations with key decision-makers.”

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**Contact:** Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
UM Law School to Host Lecture on Public Lands, Water, Sovereignty

September 24, 2018

MISSOULA – The Natural Resources and Environmental Law program at the University of Montana’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law will hold its 2018 Jestrab Distinguished Lecture on Water at noon Wednesday, Sept. 26, in Room 101.

John Leshy, distinguished emeritus law professor at the University of California Hastings College of the Law, will deliver a lecture on “The Interaction of Public Lands, Water and Sovereignty in the West: Reassessing the Conventional Wisdom.”

Before joining the faculty at UC Hastings, Leshy served as solicitor (general counsel) of the U.S. Department of the Interior throughout the Clinton administration. He also worked on the staff of the House Committee on Natural Resources and as a trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, among other positions.

In 2013, Leshy received the Defenders of Wildlife Legacy Award for lifetime contributions to wildlife conservation. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, he has written and co-authored books in mining law, water law, and federal land and resources law.
Since 2007, the Jestrab Lecture has brought leading water authorities and distinguished scholars from across the country to UM’s law school in honor of the late Frank Jestrab. Jestrab was born in Havre and graduated from the School of Law in 1939. As believers that water law would create relevant and interesting law throughout the plains and mountain states, Frank and his wife, Elvira, founded the Jestrab Lecture Series to address legal issues relating to water conservation, usage and rights in the western states.

The lecture is free and open to the general public, with a reception afterward. For more information or to register, visit http://www.umt.edu/law/.

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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 School of Theatre & Dance to Present ‘Summer and Smoke’

September 24, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Theatre and Dance launches its 2018-19 mainstage season next month with one of Tennessee Williams’ most poignant and poetic dramas, “Summer and Smoke.”

“Summer and Smoke” is directed by UM theatre Associate Professor Dr. Bernadette Sweeney and runs Oct. 3-6 and Oct. 10-13 at 7:30 p.m., as well as at 2 p.m. Oct. 7 and 14. All performances will be held in the Masquer Theatre in UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

General admission tickets cost $20, while senior and student tickets cost $16. Admission for children 12 and under is $10. 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.

Set in Mississippi at the start of the 20th century, this subtle and tender drama from one of America’s greatest playwrights follows the years-long connection between a timid minister’s daughter and the charismatic doctor’s son who grew up next door. Its themes of the struggle between the spiritual and the physical, loneliness and longing make “Summer and Smoke” a heartfelt meditation on romance, interspersed with incisive humor stemming from
Williams’ observations about conforming to – and rebelling against – small-town life.

“Williams uses place, character and poetry to craft this beautiful study of hope, loss and perseverance,” Sweeney said. “One of the characters speaks to the power of theater as much as to her own circumstances when she says, 'but sometimes, out of necessity, we shadowy people take on a strength of our own.'”

For more information call Sweeney at 406-241-9113 or email her at 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/18-19-season.php.

Audience discretion is advised as “Summer and Smoke” contains gunshots.

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**Contact:** Bernadette Sweeney, associate professor, UM School of Theatre and Dance, 406-241-9113, bernadette1.sweeney@umontana.edu.
$3M Grant to Assist UM Students Pursuing Health Careers

September 24, 2018

MISSOULA – The United States Health Resources & Services Administration recently awarded a $3 million grant to investigators in the University of Montana Skaggs School of Pharmacy.

The five-year grant will assist students at UM who wish to enter the health professions, but face financial or educational hurdles.

The grant will be administered by co-project investigators Lori Morin from the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Mark Pershouse from the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Wilena Old Person will coordinate the grant.

The HRSA grant will fund two different programs. One is composed of 10 scholars already admitted to pharmacy school who are given an intense preview of their upcoming classes and school experiences through a four-week summer “boot camp” held on the UM campus. Students receive $90 a day to cover living expenses and spend at least six hours a day preparing for fall enrollment in pharmacy programs. Five large, $10,000-per-year, renewable scholarships are given to students to help with the financial aspects of professional school.
In the second program, 25 undergraduates enroll in a health careers academy to support them throughout their training as they prepare for application to medical, dental, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant or other health care professions schools. Support will take the form of tutors, student and faculty mentors, and financial aid advisers, as well as case workers, who will ensure students have every chance to realize their dreams.

This grant works closely with the existing advising structures at UM, as well as regional high schools, tribal colleges, health care pipeline programs and others to find suitable students who could maximally benefit from the program.

For more information, email lori.morin@umontana.edu, mark.pershouse@mso.umt.edu or wilena.oldperson@mso.umt.edu. Application forms and more detailed information will be announced in the near future.

Prospective academy members can call Old Person at 406-243-4097 or email wilena.oldperson@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Lori Morin, professor emeritus, UM Department of Pharmacy Practice, lori.morin@mso.umt.edu; Mark Pershouse, associate professor, UM Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, mark.pershouse@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Essential Biodiversity Variables, or EBVs, were first introduced in 2013 as a framework for monitoring global biodiversity. In a paper published in Nature Ecology and Evolution on Sept. 17, a group of international researchers, including University of Montana research scientist Matthew Jones, establish a suite of species trait EBVs to monitor how species respond to global change.

As an example, measuring the variations of body size in cod could provide insights into unsustainable fish harvesting. The information is intended to inform international policy goals, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets set by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, of which the mission is to halt the loss of biodiversity and ensure resilient ecosystems.

“This global endeavor, with contributions from over 40 international experts, represents one critical step in a much larger United Nations effort for assessing progress toward national and...
international biodiversity and sustainability policy goals,” said Jones, a research scientist in UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation.

Daniel Kissling is a researcher at the University of Amsterdam and the paper’s lead author.

“Currently there is no detailed framework for the empirical derivation of most EBV,” Kissling said. “In our paper, we provide a conceptual framework with practical guidelines for building global, integrated and reusable EBV data products of species traits. This facilitates the monitoring of intra-specific trait changes in response to global change and human pressures, with the aim to use species trait information in national and international policy assessments.”

Jones said, “It is a common problem within most scientific disciplines. Although we have collected a wealth of data across projects and continents, data accessibility, compilation and standardization for comparisons across projects and geographies is a monumental task. With this effort we focused on how past data and collection of future data can be standardized, integrated and made accessible to inform national and international policy goals.”

Jones is an ecologist and remote sensing scientist who works with the Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Working Lands for Wildlife, a USDA program that improves conservation on working landscapes by collaborating with willing landowners and partners.

He was invited into the project as a specialist in remote sensing of species traits.

“Remote sensing observations from ground-based, airborne and satellite sensors can play a key role in the global effort to measure species traits,” Jones said. “These data have the potential to exponentially expand both the geographic and temporal extent of measurements, providing vital information for monitoring global biodiversity and how species are responding to global change.”

The paper is the outcome of a March 2017 workshop organized by the Global Infrastructures for Supporting Biodiversity Research (GLOBIS-B), a Horizon 2020 project funded by the European Commission.

“As a scientist you always hope your expertise and findings can contribute to a larger collective goal of informing decisions for the betterment of our society and environment,” Jones said. “This was one of those rare opportunities to do just that.”
The study can be found online at https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-018-0667-3. More information on GLOBIS-B can be found at http://www.globis-b.eu/.

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Contact: Matthew Jones, UM research scientist, 406-243-5150, matt.jones@ntsg.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana plans a five-day celebration to recognize American Indian heritage, Monday through Friday, Sept. 24-28. All events are free and open to the public.

The schedule is:

**Monday, Sept. 24:**

- 8 a.m.: Hike to M. Meet at base of Mount Sentinel. Honor song by UM student Daniel La-Forge.
- Morning raising of Montana tribal flags outside Payne Family Native American Center.

**Tuesday, Sept. 25:**

- All day: Ribbon Skirt and Ribbon Shirt Day: All students encouraged to wear ribbon skirts or shirts in recognition of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women.
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Kiyio Bake Sale, PFNAC Rotunda
UM to Celebrate American Indian Heritage Sept. 24-28 - UM News - University Of Montana

12:30-3:30 p.m.: Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women informational session with Ivy and Ivan McDonald, PFNAC Rotunda.
3 p.m.: Ethnobotany Garden Tour, meet at PFNAC Fire Pit.

Wednesday, Sept. 26:

- All day: Rock Your Mocs. All students encouraged to wear moccasins.
- Noon-1 p.m. Soup Wednesday, PFNAC Second Floor.
- Noon-1 p.m.: Dry Meat Demonstration, PFNAC.
- 5:30-8:30 p.m.: Missoula County Public Schools Education Department Round Dance at Big Sky High School.

Thursday, Sept. 27:

- 10 a.m.-noon: Environmental Studies program open house, Jeannette Rankin Hall Community Area.
- Noon-2 p.m.: Make and Take Beading Circle, PFNAC Student Lounge.
- 3 p.m.: Ethnobotany Garden Tour, meet at PFNAC Fire Pit.
- 6 p.m.: Kyiyo Welcome Back Bingo, PFNAC First Floor.

Friday, Sept. 28:

- 8 a.m.: Student-led sunrise prayer, PFNAC fire pit.
- 11 a.m.: Planetarium show, Star Gazing Room, garden level of PFNAC.
- 11:50 a.m.-12:30 p.m: Honor Song, American Indian Heritage Day Proclamation reading, lawn in from of PFNAC.

For more information call Michelle Guzman, director of American Indian Student Services, at 406-243-6306 or email michelle.guzman@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Michelle Guzman, director, UM American Student Services, 406-243-6306, michelle.guzman@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Celebrate American Indian Heritage Sept. 24-28 - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – After completing its fall census, the University of Montana counts 10,962 students enrolled for autumn semester. The official count is taken after completion of the 15th instructional day.

As predicted by UM officials, enrollment is down across the institution, which includes student enrollment at Missoula College, Bitterroot College and the central mountain campus.

“We had anticipated fewer students, given the number of graduates last spring and over the summer, as well as seeing some troubling early indicators in the spring around the total number of applications,” said Cathy Cole, UM’s new vice president for enrollment and strategic communications.

The fall count of 10,962 students reflects a decline of 7.6 percent from last fall’s 11,865 student enrollment.

There were some positive gains in some populations on campus. The Graduate School continues to grow, with enrollment up 4.6 percent. Enrollment at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law is up 3.7 percent. One of the biggest gains is in the number of international students at UM, which is up 14.2 percent, or 89 students. The
increase brings the total number of international students at UM to 717.

Cole said a big factor in the 21 percent reduction in Missoula College students – and accounting for roughly 200 of the 903 fewer students counted in the census – is dual enrollment students.

“Last fall, we counted 280 dual enrollment students in the fall census,” she said. “This year it’s 64, because moving forward those students will generally be counted for the spring semester. It’s a change from previous years, and that alone accounts for a 200-student difference in the fall enrollment number.”

Cole believes that the new “One, Two, Free” statewide initiative providing two free courses for high school students will bring an even greater number of participants to the program.

A breakdown of the enrollment numbers is online at http://www.umt.edu/institutional-research/Fall_2018_CensusReport.pdf.

Since arriving on campus in July, Cole has worked to expand UM’s recruiting efforts and improve the messaging around what the campus has to offer for students.

“We have incredible programs, impressive national rankings and an experience for students that is remarkable,” said Cole. “We need to do a better job on recruiting around those strengths, and we will.”

Despite UM’s current enrollment challenges, Cole reminds the UM team that it is an honor to serve each and every student. “We have the incredible privilege of serving close to 11,000 students at the University of Montana. Those students’ lives will be transformed through their UM education and the experiences they will have here throughout their academic career. That’s what keeps me excited to be in higher education and working to bring more students to our great university.”

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Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA, Montana – Montana Campus Compact, in partnership with Reach Higher Montana and the Governor’s Office of Community Service, announced Thursday that six Montana college students will receive $1,000 Civic Engagement Scholarships.

“These students are inspiring in their leadership and offer the reminder that our society has urgent needs to which college students are actively responding,” said Andrea Vernon, executive director of Montana Campus Compact.

Montana Campus Compact is a network of colleges and universities committed to advancing the public purposes of higher education. The scholarship winners are:
Grace Anderson is the lead facilitator for the Center for Recovering Students at MSU and serves on the Gallatin County DUI Task Force. She works to change the culture around drugs and alcohol at MSU and in Montana. She also co-founded Freedom by Design – a club that provides design and builds solutions for nonprofits that would otherwise lack the ability to provide services to those with physical disabilities.

Mason Dow co-founded Feeding the 406, an organization that collects leftover food from school cafeterias and then delivers the items to the Poverello Center, where meals for homeless and at-risk Missoula residents are served. Efforts are underway to incorporate this model of waste reduction into the City of Missoula’s zero-waste goals.

Jacqueline Elm founded the nonprofit Grandfamilies of Montana Inc., which is dedicated to providing grandfamilies with the resources, education and support to ensure the best possible future for children. The nonprofit also works to increase the public awareness of grandparents raising grandchildren.

Sarah Howell volunteers with the Student Montana Education Association, where she also has served as president, and the Victory Kids Program. She also tutors and mentors Title I elementary school kids through the Providence Formation Program, an organization with a focus on social justice issues.

Jessica Novak’s numerous volunteer activities include coordinating Rocky Mountain College’s Halloween for Hunger event, an annual food drive that provides roughly 1,500 pounds of food for students and families in need. She also helped coordinate Art Crawl, where volunteers facilitate student collaborative art projects to sell at auction to help fund the creation of an Inclusive Sensory Playground.

Jessica Schmitz is the president of both the Carroll Outreach Team and Enactus, where she volunteers her time to many efforts – from organizing food drives to working with a program that provides students in need with backpacks full of nutritious meals to eat over the weekends. She is also a coach for youth fast-pitch softball.

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SIX MONTANA COLLEGE STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Josh Vanek, Montana Campus Compact associate director, 406-243-5175, vanek@mtcompact.org.
UM Professor Publishes New Book on Human Migration, Global Health

September 19, 2018

MISSOULA – Routledge Press has released a new book by University of Montana political science Professor Peter Koehn titled “Transnational Mobility and Global Health: Traversing Borders and Boundaries.”

The book spotlights the powerful contemporary intersections of inequality, human movement and health.

“Writing this book brought together my concerns for people on the move and for issues of global health,” said Koehn, who also directs UM’s undergraduate minor in Global Public Health. “Mitigating negative health impacts on, and of, the most vulnerable of the world’s transnationally mobile people is the principal outcome I aim for with this book.”

“Transnational Mobility and Global Health” treats interconnected health and migration themes not covered elsewhere under one cover: health tourism, conflict-induced and other “survival”-population movements, humanitarian crises, human rights, the health-development linkage, migrant-health care and health-competency education. The book also considers global health vulnerabilities in the wake of climate change, and the biomedical, ethical and governance challenges of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.
One of three forewords to the book is written by Dr. Susan Martin, the Donald G. Herzberg Professor Emerita of International Migration at Georgetown University. Martin will visit UM in October to deliver a public lecture and to speak to students in Koehn’s Politics of Global Migration class.

“Transnational Mobility and Global Health” is the fourth book Koehn has published in the past four years. His other recent titles address the role of universities in sustainable development, climate change and transnational university partnerships.


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**Contact:** Peter Koehn, director, UM Global Public Health program, 406-243-5294, peter.koehn@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana Dance Program will launch its 2018-19 season with “UM Dancers on Location,” a site-specific dance concert at noon on both Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 29-30.

The free outdoor concerts begin at UM’s Mansfield Library Mall and unfold as the audience travels – via foot, bike, stroller or skateboard – to different venues on and around campus to behold diverse dance and
Dance Program Presents ‘UM Dancers on Location’

Almost every fall, the Dance Program brings innovative new pieces of choreography out of the theatres and studios and into nature. After a year’s hiatus due to last summer’s hazardous air quality, the School of Theatre & Dance is pleased to present this popular production once again.

“For over 50 years, site dances have captured the attention and imagination of unassuming audiences, who are often caught by surprise as dancers perform in nontraditional venues and locations,” said UM dance Professor Nicole Bradley Browning. “Site dance makers are inspired by the architecture, natural design, function and symbolism of the space.

“In this whimsical and meaningful performance, dancers have the opportunity to draw attention to, transform and expand upon our understanding of place,” she said.

No tickets are required for “UM Dancers on Location.” Audience members simply gather in front of the Mansfield Library at noon. For more information, visit http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/.

Contact: Nicole Bradley Browning, UM professor of dance, 406-529-3331, nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu.
Dance Program Presents ‘UM Dancers on Location’ - UM News - University Of Montana

University of Montana
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812
Phone: (406) 243-2522
news@umontana.edu
MISSOULA – Rangeland covers more than 1 million square miles in the United States – about a third of the country. These iconic grazing lands help feed the nation; act as recreational hubs that provide important revenue to local communities; supply water, mineral and wood resources; and are critical wildlife habitat.

Rangeland managers and landowners continuously battle conservation challenges from invasive weeds to wildfires to ensure both healthy land and livelihoods, but it can be tricky to track how vegetation changes over time across these large swaths of wide-open spaces.

Now, researchers at the University of Montana, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Bureau of Land Management, have developed a new app to make that task a little simpler.

Blending old-school data collection with cutting-edge technology, the Rangeland Analysis Platform – known as RAP – is an interactive web app designed to assist in monitoring and managing America’s rangeland. RAP is powered by Google Earth Engine and merges machine learning, cloud-based computing, remote sensing and field data to provide the first-ever annual vegetation cover maps to help improve America’s rangeland. The app can be
This free tool empowers landowners and managers to track vegetation changes over time from the Great Plains to the Pacific Coast at any scale from whole regions to individual ranches by instantly producing an interactive map that estimates and shows groundcover, including annual and perennial grasses and forbs, shrubs, trees and bare ground – all with the click of a mouse.

Pair it with site-specific local knowledge, and the app can help people easily access information to guide land management decisions – from visualizing the impacts of drought in the Southwest to designing conifer-encroachment treatments in the heart of sage grouse country.

The app was featured on the USDA blog on Sept. 18. The blog post is available online at https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2018/09/18/new-technology-landowners-and-resource-managers-revolutionizes-rangeland. A study detailing the app is published in Ecosphere and is available online at: https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ecs2.2430.

RAP combines the best traits of traditional monitoring methods while using advances in technology to overcome limitations. The user-friendly app lets people explore rangelands at an unprecedented combination of space, time and scale to plan management actions that improve agricultural operations, enhance rangelands and boost wildlife habitat.

The technology, pioneered by scientists in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, took two years to develop. Primary UM researchers include Matthew Jones, an ecologist and remote sensing scientist and the project’s lead research scientist; Brady Allred, associate professor of rangeland ecology and the app’s creator; and Dave Naugle, professor of wildlife biology.

RAP marries over 30,000 field plots from the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s National Resources Inventory and the Bureau of Land Management Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring datasets with the historical Landsat satellite record and data about meteorology, elevation and soils. The team used machine learning – the
concept that systems can learn from data, identify patterns and make decisions without being explicitly programmed to do so – to produce the vegetation maps.

“In the case of the RAP, we invoke a machine learning algorithm to learn the relationships and patterns between data collected in the field and a massive suite of satellite and land surface data,” Jones said. “Using those relationships and patterns the algorithm can then make predictions of vegetation cover over areas where we don’t have field data.”

The tool also utilizes the computational power of Google Earth Engine to produce charts and maps across the western half of the country.

“By working with Google, we harnessed decades of satellite imagery, trained it with on-the-ground field data and put it at the fingertips of practitioners,” Allred said in the USDA blog post.

“With the creation of RAP, rangeland monitoring is now only limited by the frequency with which satellites orbit the Earth,” Jones said.

Managers across the West are already putting the app to good use. John Carlson, a BLM conservation biologist based in Billings, is training his staff in Montana and the Dakotas to capitalize on this new technology. He earned a zoology degree from UM in 1988.

“This is where cowboy boots meet big data,” he said. “RAP empowers us to look backward in time and across public lands to assess management effectiveness.”

Managers and landowners can learn more about RAP and how to use it during a webinar at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25. More information about the seminar can be found at http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/rangeland-analysis-platform-introducing-a-free-online-tool-to-help-manage-and-monitor-western-rangelands.

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Contact: Brady Allred, UM associate professor of rangeland ecology, 406-243-5150, brady.allred@umontana.edu; Matthew Jones, UM research scientist, 406-370-0052, matt.jones@ntsg.umt.edu.
Cowboy Boots Meet Big Data: New App Revolutionizes Rangeland Monitoring - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Elisa New has brought poetry to the masses with a public television series titled “Poetry in America.” Now, she will bring her extensive literary knowledge to the University of Montana on Monday, Sept. 24.

New is the Powell M. Cabot Professor of American Literature at Harvard University. She will present a lecture at 4 p.m. in UM’s
Gallagher Business Building
Room 123. The event, titled “Dunking the Sonnet ... and Other Literary Fast Breaks: How Poetry in America is Bringing Verse to the Small Screen,” is free and open to the public.

“New is a respected scholar in her field and a powerful voice for the humanities. We are pleased she will share her expertise with our students, staff, faculty and the wider community,” said UM President Seth Bodnar. “We are excited to learn from her efforts to bring poetry to a broad public audience.”

New teaches American literature at Harvard. She is the creator and host of her own television series, as well as a multiplatform digital initiative that brings poetry into classrooms and living rooms around the world. In partnership with Harvard, the program offers free online courses for global learners, as well as for-credit and professional development courses for undergraduates, graduate students and educational practitioners.

Dozens of celebrities and politicians have assisted with the program, including Herbie Hancock, Katie Couric, Elena Kagan, Shaquille O’Neal, John McCain, Al Gore and Bill Clinton.

New earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1998 and came to Harvard in 1999. She is the author of several books, including “The Regenerate Lyric: Theology and Innovation in American Poetry.” Her online Harvard course is titled How to Read American Poetry.

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

September 18, 2018

MISSOULA – Campus Recreation at the University of Montana will offer two new fitness programs this semester.

Kettlebells 101 will take place from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. on Thursdays, Oct.4-25, in the Fitness & Recreation Center.

Taught by Fitness Programs personal trainer Brennan Mickelson, each class in the series starts with a dynamic warm-up that transitions into an effective, challenging, full-body kettlebell workout. It will focus on technique, safety and movement quality.

“Kettlebell training is a great way to spice up strength workouts, but it can be intimidating without direction,” said Emily Simpson, Campus Recreation’s senior assistant director of fitness programs. “Kettlebells 101 will give participants the skills they need to do the workouts on their own safely and effectively.”

This class is suitable for individuals with a beginner-to-intermediate understanding of strength training. Cost is $15, and Campus Recreation members can register at the Fitness & Recreation Center front desk or online at https://register.campusrec.umt.edu/.
The other new class, Griz Tracks, is a small-group, healthy-lifestyle program for students interested in learning nutrition and physical activity – intrinsic components of physical wellness.

Campus Recreation personal trainer Lacy Fiore will lead group workouts from 8 to 9 a.m. Mondays and 3 to 4 p.m. Thursdays in the Fitness & Recreation Center.

In addition, UM Dining Registered Dietitian Laura Granlund will host four nutrition sessions from 4 to 5 p.m. Oct. 4 and 18 and Nov. 1 and 8 as part of the program.

The six-week program, with 12 classes, costs $50. Students should register by Oct. 1 at the Fitness & Recreation Center front desk or online at https://register.campusrec.umt.edu/.

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**Contact:** Emily Simpson, senior assistant director of fitness programs, UM Campus Recreation, 406-243-2833, emily.simpson@mso.umt.edu.
UM President Plans Nontraditional Inauguration

September 18, 2018

MISSOULA – Most universities traditionally host a large, formal installation ceremony when a new leader steps into the role of president. University of Montana President Seth Bodnar has a different idea for his Oct. 26-27 inauguration.

Bodnar, who started work as UM’s 19th president in January, said a formal installation will be replaced by two days of events titled “Inauguration Weekend: A Celebration of Service.” Events will focus on the collective contributions that service brings to campus, the greater Missoula community and beyond.

“I believe it is more important with this transition to celebrate and nurture the collective impact of our campus and community, as well as to ensure that our valuable resources are focused on supporting the success and impact of our students, staff and faculty,” Bodnar
said.

“Rather than hosting a series of events that recognize one individual, we will take this opportunity to recognize the positive work of the many individuals who make UM such an impactful institution.”

An inauguration website is online at http://bit.ly/2x5vzzR and will be updated regularly. Check the site for event times and details as they are finalized. The myriad activities that weekend will include:

**Friday, Oct. 26**

- **Installation ceremony** – There will be a brief public service on the steps of Main Hall.

- **Service stories** – UM will showcase stories featuring future and current students, alumni and employees who embody UM’s service-oriented, community-minded and impact-focused culture. These stories will highlight the broad and impressive ways UM serves our community, region and world.

- **High school broadcast** – Bodnar will deliver a recorded talk for Montana high school students. This video will celebrate the roles of high school students as current and future citizens who lead through service.

- **Service activity** – As a campus, UM will partner with a local nonprofit to join hundreds of local volunteers for an on-campus service activity that addresses food insecurity in the Missoula community.

**Saturday, Oct. 27**

- **Griz for Kids** – UM will host the Griz for Kids toy drive, with donation bins at various locations during the football game. Griz for Kids is a communitywide drive created by a former UM football player as a way to provide for the needs of many local organizations.

- **Pre-game celebration** – The University will host a pre-game brunch to celebrate local nonprofit leaders and
honor our veterans and current military service members.

“We will use this celebration of service to highlight the impressive ways in which we look beyond ourselves to serve others,” Bodnar said. “We will reaffirm our commitment to serving our local community and the region.”


Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Larry Summers, the only U.S. treasury secretary in the past 50 years to leave office with a national budget surplus, will speak Monday, Sept. 24, at the University of Montana.

One of the nation’s leading economists, Summers served as the 71st U.S. secretary of the treasury during the...
Former US Treasury Secretary Summers to Discuss New Global Order - UM News - University Of Montana

Clinton administration.
He will participate in a “fireside chat” at 7:30 p.m. in UM's Montana Theatre of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. He will be joined on stage by UM President Seth Bodnar and Max Baucus, a former U.S. senator from Montana and ambassador to China.

This Summers event is titled “The United States in a New Global Order: An Evening with Larry Summers and Max Baucus.” The event is free and open to the public, and it will livestream at https://www.mcat.org/local-live.

“It’s exciting to bring someone with the stature of Larry Summers to campus,” Bodnar said. “Campus and the wider community are going to be exposed to some exceptional ideas and someone with an amazing base of knowledge.”

Summers served as director of the White House National Economic Council during the Obama administration, as president of Harvard University and as chief economist of the World Bank.

Summers' tenure at the U.S. Treasury coincided with the longest period of sustained economic growth in U.S. history, and he has played a key role in addressing every major financial crisis during the past two decades.

Summers is now the President Emeritus and the Charles W. Eliot University Professor at Harvard University, where he became a full professor at age 28 — one of the youngest in Harvard's recent history. He directs Harvard’s Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government.

Summers also is an adviser to businesses and investors. He serves on the board of Square and Premise. He chairs the boards of Citizen Schools and the Center for Global Development. He also serves on the board of Teach for America and ONE. He is an adviser to The Hamilton Project, The Hutchins Center on Fiscal & Monetary Policy and the Peterson Institute for International Economics. In addition, he is a distinguished senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and recently co-chaired the Commission on Inclusive Prosperity.

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Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Used Outdoor Gear Sale put on by the University of Montana’s Outdoor Program will take place from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, in the University Center Atrium.

Students and anyone in the Missoula community can buy or sell used outdoor equipment, including bikes, boating equipment, climbing gear, camping gear, clothing and more.

Those interested in selling gear can drop off their items in the UC Atrium between 7 and 11 a.m. the day of the sale. Sellers can pick up gear and receive a cash payout for the sold items between 6 and 7:30 p.m. the same day. The UM Outdoor Program will collect 20 percent of the selling price, and proceeds benefit the UM Outdoor Program for new programs and equipment.

Volunteers are needed for the event. Flexible shifts and roles are available throughout the day, and those who work at least three hours gain access to a special preview sale.

For more information call 406-243-5172 or visit http://www.umt.edu/outdoor. To volunteer call 406-243-5172 or
Contact: Andi Armstrong, assistant director of operations and marketing, UM Campus Recreation, 406-243-2806, andrea.armstrong@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A new federal grant will allow the University of Montana to co-lead a regional effort to help biomedicine researchers develop their entrepreneurial skills to speed commercialization of their inventions.

The three-year, $3.5 million Small Business Technology Transfer grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences identified the University of New Mexico and University of Montana as co-academic leads for the project. UM's Center for Translational Medicine will spearhead the effort in Montana and the surrounding region.

“The goal is to work across the Montana University System and western region to educate and assist university researchers in developing the clinical and commercial potential of their basic scientific discoveries,” said CTM Director Dr. Jay Evans, who will serve as the UM principal investigator for the Accelerating Solutions for Commercialization and Entrepreneurial Development (ASCEND) grant.

“The grant will help accelerate and expand educational programs in translational medicine and career development in health care and pharmaceutical industries across Montana,” Evans said.
UM and UNM will work in partnership with Virtici, a Seattle-based product development company, to build a technology transfer and entrepreneurial development platform benefitting all participating universities.

In addition to UM and UNM, participating universities include New Mexico State University; the University of Wyoming; the University of Nevada, Reno; the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Montana State University; the University of Idaho; the University of Alaska, Anchorage; the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; and the University of Hawaii.

“This project is one outcome of the Mountain West Research Consortium and is the result of the outstanding entrepreneurial and economic development efforts at both the University of Montana and the University of New Mexico,” said Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship and MWRC director. MWRC is a consortium of 13 public research universities in seven mountain west states.

He said this project will build a sustainable community and culture of biomedical entrepreneurship in Montana and significantly improve education, mentoring, partnerships and technology transfer resources throughout the region.

Contact: Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship, 406-243-6670, vpr@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – For the first time, the University of Montana has offered late-starting, online courses for students this fall, and the courses are proving popular, having filled rapidly.

Two online music courses, “History of Rock & Roll” and “Country Music: Cowboys, Opry, Nashville,” will start Friday, Oct. 5, and run for nine weeks to the end of the semester. The classes are three credits, and multiple sections are offered.

“UM hopes to increase options for late-starting online classes in future semesters to support students who have dropped a class, but need to maintain a full load to continue their progress to graduation in a timely manner,” said Robert Squires, UMOnline director. “This also helps students keep their credits in line with the financial aid they have received.”

Although some sections have filled all spots, additional ones recently opened. Students may enroll for online courses through the usual process on Cyberbear at http://cyberbear.umt.edu/.
Contact: Robert Squires, UMOnline director, 406-243-6056, robert.squires@umontana.edu.
UM Global Public Health Program Launches Internship Program

September 14, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana prepares students to enter their professional careers directly after graduation. Internships working with businesses and organizations offer one of the best ways is to gain critical experience for landing post-graduate dream jobs.

UM's Global Public Health minor has launched an internship program with initial opportunities available at seven local organizations. These internships reflect that students enrolled in the GPH minor come from a wide array of disciplines, with some working directly with patients and others pursuing careers in health advocacy or public health policy.

“Why not gain credit for the work you do?” said Peter Koehn, the GPH program director. “Local is always part of global, so we thought we could step in to offer these new opportunities for our students.”

The new local career-advancing internships include working with:

- YWCA Missoula. Help accomplish their mission of “eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting
peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.”

- **The Poverello Center's Medical Respite Program.** Assist the medical respite care coordinator in conducting research, connecting clients with resources and community outreach.

- **Consumer Direct Hospice.** Join a hospice care team working directly with hospice patients.

- **The Missoula League of Women Voters.** Monitor health-related legislation during the 2019 Montana legislative session.

- **Missoula Medical Aid.** Help organize their annual Salsa Ball fundraiser. There also is an opportunity for native or fluent Spanish speakers to translate during medical mission trips to Honduras.

- **Missoula Forum for Children and Youth.** Assist with substance-abuse prevention programs for children and youth.

- **Missoula City-County Health Department Health Promotion Division programs.** These include Buckle Up Missoula County, Cancer Control, the DUI Task Force, Emergency Preparedness, Infectious Disease, Let's Move! Missoula, Missoula Invest Health, Suicide Prevention and Tobacco Free Missoula County.

GPH also maintains a list of outstanding national and international internships related to global public health.

For more information call program coordinator Kelly Yarns at 406-270-0869 or email kelly.yarns@mso.umt.edu or call Program Director Peter Koehn at 406-243-5294 or email peter.koehn@mso.umt.edu. The GPH website is online at [http://hs.umt.edu/globalpublichealth/](http://hs.umt.edu/globalpublichealth/).

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**Contact:** Kelly Yarns, program assistant, Global Public Health, 406-270-0869, kelly.yarns@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Montana’s hardrock mining industry supports more than 12,000 permanent, year-round jobs with average annual earnings of $86,030, according to a new study released by the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

The BBER study, sponsored by the Montana Mining Association, found that the eight largest metal and other mines across the state helped produce $2.7 billion in economic output and almost $200 million in state government revenue annually.

“Hardrock mining delivers vital economic benefits to Montana,” said Patrick Barkey, the BBER director who authored the report. “And because of state government reliance on natural resource taxes, those benefits are spread across the state.”

The BBER report also considered the economic impacts of three new mine developments under consideration. It found that the full development of the Rock Creek, Montanore and Black Butte mines as proposed would add an additional 3,200 jobs and more than $200 million in personal income to Montana households.
“We asked BBER to perform this project because of its reputation for impartial, transparent research,” said Tammy Johnson, MMA executive director. “We think it is important for Montanans to understand the value of what our hardworking members do.”

The BBER study was based on operating information gathered from MMA members, including both production and exploration activities. The study is available at [http://www.bber.umt.edu/pubs/econ/HardrockMining2018.pdf](http://www.bber.umt.edu/pubs/econ/HardrockMining2018.pdf).

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Contact: Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, patrick.barkey@umontana.edu.
UM Professor’s Unique Approach to Teaching MBA Course Earns Recognition

September 17, 2018

MISSOULA – When the Academy of Management distributed best teaching practices to 5,000 of its members earlier this year, it shared innovative educational ideas from the University of Montana alongside those from Harvard University, Dartmouth College and Georgetown University.

The UM course highlighted was the Master of Business Administration seminar Advanced Strategy, taught by Mike Braun, the Poe Family Distinguished Fellow in Entrepreneurship in the Department of Management and Marketing in UM’s College of Business. Braun was selected based on his unique approach to teaching corporate turnaround.
Students in Braun’s course learn how to diagnose the causes of organizational decline and develop strategies for spearheading a turnaround through individual and group assignments. Real-time case studies of companies such as Jamba Juice and Pier 1 Imports help students consider what it takes to regain competitive advantage once a company has lost touch with its customers.

“There is too much emphasis on the success stories of the Apples and Googles of the world,” Braun said. “In my view, we have lots to learn from failing organizations, and especially those that turn themselves around.”

Braun’s academic research focuses on this topic, as well as the management of family-owned enterprises. He is the U.S. editor of the Journal of Family Business Management, an imprint of Emerald Publishing. He also is co-author of the book “Mastering Strategy: Workshops for Business Success” and its and companion website, http://www.mastering-strategy.com/.

Braun joined UM in 2006 after managing leveraged buyout strategies and transactions for private equity firms for an L.A.-based boutique merchant bank. Swiss by birth, he has taught in Switzerland and Italy.

The Academy of Management is the professional association for management and organization scholars that has 20,000 members in more than 120 countries. The Strategy Division – which highlighted Braun’s course – supports the development of knowledge relevant to those who influence the strategy of organizations.

For more information and to read Braun’s interview on his corporate turnaround course, visit the Strategy Division website at https://strdiv.org/teaching/all-levels/innovative-teaching-michael-braun/.

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Contact: Elizabeth Willy, director of communications and marketing, UM College of Business, 406-243-4436, elizabeth.willy@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana Professor Diana Six will receive the 2018 Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Pioneer Award on Sept. 21 for seminal contributions to the understanding of bark beetles ecology, forest adaptations and climate change.

Presented by the American Computer and Robotics Museum and Montana State University, this prestigious award honors scientific, technical and literary pioneers who have made significant contributions to the understanding and preservation of the biodiversity of life on Earth.

Edward O. Wilson is an American biologist, researcher, theorist and two-time Pulitzer Prize
winner who has written more than 20 books and hundreds of technical papers. He’s widely considered to be the world’s leading expert in myrmecology – the study of ants – and has discovered hundreds of new species. Wilson personally presents the award whenever possible.

“I’m incredibly honored to be receiving this award,” Six said. “It’s named for one of my heroes and one of the most important scientists of our time. E.O. Wilson has not only contributed in major ways to our understanding of the world around us, but he works tirelessly to develop approaches to address some of the most important issues we and the planet are facing.”

Six’s own work focuses on a different group of insects. A professor of forest entomology and pathology – insects and pathogens affecting trees – in UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, she conducts research on bark beetle ecology and management, including how bark beetles may affect the ability of forests to adapt to climate change. Her latest study, published in July in Frontiers in Plant Science, found that mountain pine beetles may avoid certain trees within a population due to genetic differences that result in resistance. She also studies the evolution and maintenance of symbioses, particularly among bark beetles, ambrosia beetles and fungi. Her work includes extensive collaboration with scientists in the U.S., South Africa, Sweden and Germany.

Previous recipients of the Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Pioneer Award include Jennifer Doudna for seminal and pioneering contributions to the development of the CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology; Dan Wenk, superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, for leadership and undaunted dedication toward the preservation of biodiversity in the park; Sir Alec Jeffreys, a professor in the Department of Genetics at the University of Leicester, for the invention of DNA fingerprinting; Lynn Margulis for the development of the theory of symbiogenesis; and UM Professor Emeritus Steve Running, for pioneering and seminal scientific work with climatology.

“Looking at the list of previous recipients, I must say I feel a bit overwhelmed,” Six said. “These people have had such enormous impacts in so many ways. It is very special to be included among them and to be recognized for my work using genetics, ecology and symbiology to develop a better understanding of bark beetle ecology and management and the potential for our forests to adapt to climate change.”

“Diana receiving this prestigious award is nothing short of fantastic and is very well-deserved,” said FCFC Dean Tom DeLuca. “She is a source of inspiration and a great researcher. It is wonderful to see her recognized for her creativity and dedication to her science.”
Both the Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Pioneer Awards and the George R. Stibitz Computer and Communications Pioneer Awards will be presented on Friday, Sept. 21, 2018 at Montana State University in Bozeman. A free public forum will be held at 7 p.m. in the Stand Union Building ballrooms. Doors open at 6 p.m., and early arrival is suggested.

Contact: Diana Six, professor of forest entomology and pathology, W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation at UM, diana.six@umontana.edu.
UM Professor Wins National Science Foundation Grant to Study Rodents, Hantavirus

September 13, 2018

MISSOULA – Since hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome was first named in 1993, more than 700 people have become infected and more than 250 have died from it in the United States. The devastating disease, caused by Sin Nombre hantavirus, is spread primarily by and among deer mice.
In August, University of Montana Assistant Professor Angela Luis received a $200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study how competition with other rodent species affects the spread of hantavirus among deer mice.

Disease ecologists fervently debate whether biodiversity loss leads to an increase in disease transmission. In a July paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Luis showed that species diversity can have both positive and negative influences in disease transmission in the same system.

Hantavirus tends to be less prevalent in diverse rodent communities, since multiple species in a system results in fewer individual deer mice and slows down the spread of infection. But the virus passes more easily between deer mice in those same populations because competition with other species either changes the rate individual deer mice encounter one another or stresses them out and lowers their immunity.

To read more, visit https://news.umt.edu/2018/07/071818biod.php. The study is online at https://bit.ly/2wYgmjQ.

Using funding from the NSF grant, Luis and her team will examine just how competition among rodents influences these factors, specifically measuring how the presence of voles affects contact rates between deer mice, their stress levels and immunity. The results could provide insights into disease transmission dynamics in other species.

Andreas Eleftheriou, a doctoral candidate in UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, will lead experiments on the college’s Bandy Ranch, located northwest of Ovando, where he will set up 30-meter-by-30-
meter pens stocked with varying numbers of voles and deer mice.

To measure contact rate, Eleftheriou will dust individual mice with fluorescent powder, which will brush off onto other rodents they come into contact with. Researchers also will collect blood and fecal samples to measure stress levels and immunity.

“We're excited to get started with these experiments at the Bandy Ranch,” Eleftheriou said. “By conducting controlled experiments in an outdoor setting, we will be able to tease apart mechanisms that drive the spread of hantavirus in deer mice when competition with other rodents is present.”

Emily Weidner, a FCFC master’s student, also will examine how broader species diversity affects deer mice numbers and disease transmission by analyzing 20 years of data tracking hantavirus prevalence across more than 20 field sites in Montana, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.

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Contact: Angela Luis, assistant professor of population and disease ecology, UM Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences, 406-243-6603, angela.luis@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Powerhouse scholars from the worlds of economics and poetry will each offer public lectures at the University of Montana on Monday, Sept. 24.

The speakers are Lawrence Summers, one of the nation’s leading economists and the 71st U.S. secretary of the treasury during the Clinton administration, and Elisa New, the Powell M. Cabot Professor of American Literature at Harvard University and creator of “Poetry in America,” a public television series.

UM President Seth Bodnar will engage Summers and Ambassador Max Baucus in a public fireside chat titled “The United States in a New Global Order: An Evening with Larry Summers and Max Baucus” at 7:30 p.m. in UM’s Montana Theater of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. The chat will livestream at https://www.mcat.org/local-live.

New will present “Dunking the Sonnet … and Other Literary Fast Breaks: How Poetry in America is Bringing Verse to the Small Screen” at 4 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123.
Both events are free and open to the public.

“Bringing two speakers of this caliber to campus on the same day is a privilege and an honor,” UM President Seth Bodnar said. “Summers and New will provide our students, employees and wider Montana community with exceptional learning opportunities.”

Summers served as director of the White House National Economic Council during the Obama administration, as president of Harvard University and as chief economist of the World Bank.

Summers’ tenure at the U.S. Treasury coincided with the longest period of sustained economic growth in U.S. history. He is the only treasury secretary in the past half-century to leave office with the national budget in surplus, and he has played a key role in addressing every major financial crisis for the past two decades.

Summers is now the President Emeritus and the Charles W. Eliot University Professor at Harvard University, where he became a full professor at age 28 – one of the youngest in Harvard’s recent history. He directs Harvard’s Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government.

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New teaches American literature at Harvard. She is the creator and host of “Poetry in America,” a public television series and multiplatform digital initiative that brings poetry into classrooms and living rooms around the world. In partnership with Harvard, the program offers free online courses for global learners, as well as for-credit and professional development courses for undergraduates, graduate students and educational practitioners.

Dozens of celebrities and politicians have assisted with the program, including Herbie Hancock, Katie Couric, Elena Kagan, Shaquille O’Neal, John McCain, Al Gore and Bill Clinton.

New earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1998 and came to Harvard in 1999. She is the author of several books, including “The Regenerate Lyric: Theology and Innovation in American Poetry.” Her online Harvard course is titled How to Read American Poetry.

Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
Two Renowned Harvard Scholars to Speak at UM Sept. 24 - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Student Project on Meth Use in Montana Wins National Award

September 12, 2018

MISSOULA – The Society for Professional Journalists named Metheffect.com, a University of Montana School of Journalism project, a national winner in its Mark of Excellence Awards. The award for Online In-Depth Reporting will be recognized at the annual SPJ convention in Baltimore Sept. 27-29.

When the semesterlong reporting project published in May of 2017, its impact was felt throughout the state. It ran as an hourlong radio documentary on Montana Public Radio. Newspapers – including the state’s second largest, the Missoulian – ran a multipart series featuring the articles, and the attorney general’s office asked for the full reporting to help guide its policy on drug addiction. The coverage marked the first time any news organization had sought to comprehensively document the impact meth use is having on families, social services and the judicial system in our state.

The School of Journalism created the project by combining existing classes – one in advanced audio reporting and the other in digital news – to develop a multimedia website to serve as a hub for stories distributed through traditional Montana media. It also trained students to use social media and shareable audio to reach audiences online.
The project teamed up classes taught by Lee Banville (digital news) and Jule Banville (advanced audio).

“We really wanted to tell the story of how this drug and addiction is affecting so many segments of life in Montana,” Lee Banville said, “and what emerged was a series of stories and interactive features that, for the first time, tried to tell the whole story of meth in Montana. It is gratifying to see a national news organization like the Society of Professional Journalists recognize the Meth Effect as a real accomplishment in telling a complex story in an in-depth way."

“It’s a big deal, and I’m really honored the work we did is getting some national recognition,” Jule Banville said. “But I have to say, I’m even more impressed with the stories and the solid journalism our students accomplished. It’s had a real impact, and I think that's the take-home for us.”

For more information about the project, visit http://www.metheffect.com.

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Contact: Jule Banville, professor, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-2237, jule.banville@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Registration is now open for the new Whitefish Mountain Biking Weekend, hosted by the University of Montana’s Outdoor Program Friday through Sunday, Sept. 21-23.

During the weekend, participants can enjoy mountain bike-specific trails and features for all levels at the Whitefish Bike Retreat. Bikes are available to rent at a discounted rate at the retreat.

The trip costs $200, which includes transportation to Whitefish, instructors and campsites, and it is open to anyone. Those interested should register by Wednesday, Sept. 19, at the Outdoor Program office on campus or at http://register.campusrec.umt.edu. There is a pre-trip meeting at the Outdoor Program from 5 to 6 p.m. Sept. 19.

Contact: Elizabeth Fricke, senior assistant director, UM Outdoor Program, 406-243-5172, elizabeth.fricke@mso.umt.edu.
UM to Host Education Seminar for Montana Health Care Students

September 11, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will hold a fall education seminar for nearly 250 health care students from Montana’s largest universities Friday, Sept. 14.

The event, sponsored by the Montana Geriatric Education Center and UM Health and Medicine, will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. Students will attend from UM and Missoula College Health Professions programs, WWAMI and the Montana State University College of Nursing.

“This unique offering will provide Montana students early in their health care training programs an introduction to interprofessional collaborative practice,” said Kerry Haney, a UM pharmacy faculty member. “The focus of the seminar is on the Interprofessional Education core competency of value and ethics.”

The session will kick off with welcoming remarks from Dr. Chelsea Bodnar, pediatrician and founder of Ohana Pediatrics. Kate Chapin, director of field education in the UM School of Social Work, will provide an overview of interprofessional practice. Students will participate in activities to learn about the roles and responsibilities of other healthcare professions. Dr. Jenn Bell, UM director of clinical education for the School of Physical Therapy, will
present on implicit bias. The seminar will close with students working together across disciplines on ethics case studies.

Student attendees are from many different disciplines, including physical therapy, medical laboratory sciences, speech and language pathology, pharmacy, social work, public health, clinical psychology, medicine, radiology technology and nursing.

“This seminar, made possible through a unique, large-scale collaboration within the MUS system, offers an opportunity for our students to learn to work together effectively in practice to improve patient care outcomes.” Haney said.

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**Contact:** Kerry Haney, PharmD faculty member, UM Department of Pharmacy Practice and Family Medicine of Western Montana, 406-258-4453, kerry.haney@mso.umt.edu.
UM College of Business Ranks No. 1 in Big Sky Conference

September 11, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana College of Business ranks among the best in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report 2019 rankings released Sept. 10. The college earned the top spot in the Big Sky Conference after sharing the honor with the University of Idaho the past two years.
"Between the added services, stellar curriculum and internship experiences we offer students, we know UM is the top choice for students who want to pursue a business degree in Montana and the entire region," said Chris Shook, the Sprunk and Burnham Endowed Dean of the College of Business.

The Big Sky Conference comprises universities in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, California and Utah. The UM business college came in 127th, more than 100 spots over the next Montana institution. It moved up from the 151st spot in 2018.

The College of Business offers six undergraduate majors in accounting, finance, international business, management, management information systems and marketing. At the graduate level, it offers the only separately accredited master of accountancy in Montana and the first master of science in business analytics in the Pacific Northwest. Its Master of Business Administration, which is the only degree of its kind in the state, allows students to earn their diploma online without stepping foot on campus.

With nearly 20,000 alumni, the college has a strong track record of preparing students who launch successful careers to become leaders in their chosen fields. UM business alumni hold management positions with global powerhouse companies like Microsoft, Nike, KPMG and Boeing and launch careers as accountants, IT consultants, marketing professionals and entrepreneurs – work that bolsters local economies in Montana and beyond.

UM accounting programs, which have long-standing reputations for preparing top grads, recently ranked nationally for its CPA exam pass rate and ranked in the country’s top 20 in a survey of U.S. accounting faculty.

On Sept. 21-22, the college will celebrate its centennial anniversary with a weekend of festivities on campus and in Missoula.

“We have a lot to celebrate as we turn 100," Shook said. “Another ranking that puts us among the best in the country is certainly one of those things.”

For more about UM’s College of Business, visit http://www.business.umt.edu/.
Contact: Elizabeth Willy, director of marketing and communications, UM College of Business, 406-243-4436, elizabeth.willy@mso.umt.edu.
September 10, 2018

MISSOULA – An escalation in colonial policy in Singapore in the 1860s constrained non-European culture, but a recently discovered poem tells a different story.

University of Alberta Assistant Professor Julia Byl will share the unconventional historical record in her presentation “Confiscate Their Turbans Immediately! Music, Muharram and the Paracolonial in a Poem from Singapore (1864)” from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, in Liberal Arts Building Room 011 at the University of Montana. The talk is free and open to the public.

In 1865, a legal rationale was given that the Muslim procession of Murharram was shut down due to riots and “conspiracy” amongst its celebrants. Court proceedings were exhaustively covered in the newspapers.

The poem “Syair Tabut” by Malay poet Encik Ali invites readers to re-evaluate processions and policies of colonial Singapore. He describes the procession’s music and communal interaction even as he accuses the British of misdeeds.
Byl earned her doctorate degree in ethnomusicology at the University of Michigan and she was a postdoctoral Fellow at Kings College and Mellon Fellow at St. Olaf's College. Her first book, “Antiphonal Histories: Resonant Pasts in the Toba Musical Present,” traces global influences on the musical traditions of Toba Batak peoples of Sumatra.

The talk is co-sponsored by the UM South and Southeast Asian Studies Program, Office of the Provost, Department of History and Department of Anthropology.

Contact: G.G. Weix, professor, UM College of Humanities and Sciences, 406-529-7191, ggweix@mso.umt.edu.
UM Ranked as Montana’s No. 1 University

September 10, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana ranks as the No. 1 university in the state of Montana according to U.S. News & World Report in its annual listing of best colleges in the country.

UM came in at No. 201 overall in the national universities’ category, which includes both public and private institutions. UM rocketed up the list, earning its ranking as the best Montana university by
focusing its attention on students, quality instruction in the classroom and the co-curricular experience.

“I have been saying since I arrived on campus last January that quality is one of our top priorities,” said Seth Bodnar, UM’s president. “We have been focusing all our resources on creating a financially sustainable university, increasing quality in and out of the classroom and creating a transformative student experience. The progress we are making shows in this national ranking.”

In U.S. News’ “Best Colleges 2019” guidebook, UM moved up to 109th place in the top National Universities category, from 113th last year. UM also ranked 167th in the High School Counselor Rankings. And this year, the UM College of Business came in at 127 in the nation in the overall Best Biz School category, moving up 24 spots.

“These rankings validate much about the work that is being done in the classroom at the University of Montana,” said Jon Harbor, UM provost and executive vice president. “Our world-class faculty are serving our students as teachers, mentors and coaches and bringing lessons to life through hands-on and transformational learning opportunities. That U.S. News & World Report has recognized us for that is not surprising.”

U.S. News released its flagship “Best Colleges” rankings Sept. 10 after surveying more than 1,800 colleges and universities across the nation. Its methodology focuses on academic excellence, with schools evaluated on hundreds of data points and up to 15 measures of academic quality, with an overall emphasis on student outcomes.


Located in the heart of western Montana’s stunning natural landscape in Missoula, UM was founded in 1893. The University offers academic excellence and unique educational experiences for its students in and out of the classroom through the integration of liberal arts, the sciences and professional education, with an array of international and interdisciplinary emphases.
To apply today and be in the center of it all, visit http://admissions.umt.edu/.

Contact: Cathy Cole, UM vice president for enrollment and strategic communications, 406-243-4023, cathy.cole@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A University of Montana visiting professor and alumna explores the intersection of immigration, surveillance, social welfare and the legacy of colonialism – as well as lessons for today’s immigration situation – in her recently published book.

Dr. Gillian Glaes published “African Political Activism in Postcolonial France: State Surveillance and Social Welfare” with Routledge Press. The book focuses on the political lives of African immigrants in France during the 1960s and ‘70s and relates to contemporary issues such as national identity and race. It is available for purchase online at https://bit.ly/2MWrInc.
In her book, Glaes finds that African immigrants took an active role in protesting the challenging conditions in which they found themselves through using associations, rent strikes, riots and the deaths of five of their contemporaries to attract attention to their plight.

Community leaders such as Sally N'Dongo became prominent political figures within France's postcolonial social, political and media landscapes. He and his fellow immigrants' stories suggest that immigrants had and have the power to influence public discourse and shape public policy. For example, during the Cold War, the French state not only monitored and watched these and other immigrant groups, but also created social welfare programs, including a medical clinic designed to assist and control them.

While set in the recent past, this book provides important commentary on how immigrant communities contribute to host societies in diverse ways and the power of public policy to assist or challenge them. It has much to tell about the politics of immigration today in Europe, the U.S. and throughout the world.

“My hope is that the research and findings from my book can provide some valuable lessons and perspective for today's discussions and proposed legislation on immigration,” Glaes said. “Understanding both the African and the French reaction during the 1960s and 1970s provides some interesting insights that apply to the U.S. and the world today.

“In a moment where the U.S. federal government is separating immigrants' families and discussions persist of border walls in the U.S. and apartheid in France, it's important for us to not repeat mistakes of the past and to learn from other countries while reflecting on our own history of immigration and what our current and future paths will be.”

Glaes teaches courses in history and African-American studies and for the Franke Global Leadership Initiative at UM. She received her undergraduate degree from UM, a master’s degree at the University of Oregon and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has lived throughout the United States, France and Denmark, and she previously taught as an associate professor of history and department chair at Carroll College in
Contact: Gillian Glaes, UM visiting associate professor in history, African-American studies and the Franke Global Leadership Initiative, 406-546-8966, gillian.glaes@mso.umt.edu.
UM Homecoming 2018 Parade Applications Available

September 07, 2018

MISSOULA – Applications for the 2018 University of Montana Homecoming Parade are now available. This year’s theme is "Montana Strong," and the parade will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, in downtown Missoula.

Applications are online at http://www.grizalum.org/events/Homecoming/2018-parade.php or by calling 406-243-5211 or 877-862-5867. Paper applications also are available at the Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association in Brantly Hall Room 107 on campus.

Applications cost $50 until 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, after which a $25 late fee is charged. The online application will no longer be available after Friday, Sept. 28, and the final deadline to submit entries is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3.

For more information call the UM Office of Alumni Relations at 406-243-5211, email alumni@umontana.edu or visit http://www.grizalum.org/events/Homecoming/2018-parade.php.

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MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Department of Physics and Astronomy invites the public to its fall semester planetarium shows in the Payne Family Native American Center Star Gazing Room this month through December.

The 50-minute shows will be offered at 6 and 7:30 p.m. on the following Fridays: Sept. 14 and 28; Oct. 12; Nov. 2, 16 and 30; and Dec. 14.

Tickets cost $6 for adults and $4 for children ages 12 and under, and are available for purchase at http://hs.umt.edu/physics/Outreach/default.php. The maximum capacity for public shows is 28 people, so tickets are limited. Shows often sell out far in advance, and tickets cannot be purchased at the door.

Each program will take attendees on a tour of the current night skies of Missoula, pointing out noteworthy objects, constellations, planets or upcoming events visible in the night sky. The show then will shift to engaging topics chosen by that evening’s presenter.
Attendees should plan to arrive 10 minutes before the beginning of the show to check in. The planetarium entrance will be locked after the show begins. As part of the Elouise Cobell Land and Culture Institute, UM’s planetarium is housed in the Star Gazing Room in the basement of the Native American center.

For more information on the shows, visit http://hs.umt.edu/physics/Outreach/default.php.

Contact: Mark Reiser, outreach coordinator, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy, 406-243-2074, mark.reiser@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – In an effort to serve students better at the University of Montana, Larry Abramson, dean of the School of Journalism, will become special adviser to the provost starting Sept. 10.

In this new capacity, Abramson will provide UM's new Executive Vice President and Provost Jon Harbor with guidance and assistance for cross-cutting university priorities in which he has key knowledge and experience – one of which will be in global and international opportunities.

Abramson was a prominent NPR news correspondent before joining UM as dean of the School of Journalism in 2014. Denise Dowling, currently associate professor and director of student services in the journalism school, will take over as interim dean on Sept. 10.

"I look forward to serving the UM community in my new role as special adviser to the provost, specifically on topics such as diversity and inclusion," Abramson said. "I'm confident that the staff and faculty of the J-school will continue their long-standing commitment to serving students, and that their dedication and experience will make this transition successful."
Dowling served in the interim dean role from 2012 to 2014, while the search for Abramson took place.

One highlight of Abramson’s tenure as dean includes expanding Montana Journalism Abroad, which sent three groups of students overseas to Germany, Japan and Korea to produce original journalism about some of the challenges and opportunities these countries face. This work received widespread publication, including in CityLab, a prominent news website.

Other achievements include the Crown Project, a mentoring and scholarship program for graduate students studying the Crown of the Continent, as well as the launch of the Montana Media Lab, which included hiring of the lab’s founding director.

“The UM community at large, and J-school students in particular, benefited from Abramson’s extensive network of journalism professionals, many of whom Abramson brought to campus for lectures and workshops,” Harbor said.

Abramson’s role as special adviser to the provost comes at an opportune time – UM’s executive vice president and provost has been in that role for a bit over a month.

“Larry's perspective and advice are valuable to me during my first year as UM provost,” Harbor said. “His knowledge and experience relating to free speech, diversity and inclusion, making the most of UM’s global and international opportunities and honors education, will help advance a number of our goals for UM.”

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Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
Alumnus Donates $2 Million to UM’s Mansfield Library

September 07, 2018

MISSOULA – University of Montana alumnus Richard Lee Merritt was fond of books. So fond, in fact, that thousands of them filled his San Francisco home. The retired newspaper librarian visited bookstores wherever his travels took him, from London and Paris to Marseille and Algiers.

As much as he enjoyed collecting, he loved sharing even more. Over a quarter century, Merritt donated more than 1,300 books to UM’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library. They include two rare and special volumes: a 1561 edition of “The Woorkes of Geoffrey Chaucer,” edited by John Stow, and an 1866 edition of “The Paradise Lost of John Milton.”

He created two funds to support book purchases, preservation and other activities at the library – the Gertrude Merritt Memorial Fund, in honor of his late wife, and the Merritt Mnemosyne-Minerva Fund.

In a final act of generosity, Merritt willed the bulk of his estate to the Mansfield Library. He wanted to support the university he so treasured and instill a passion for reading and learning in others.
Merritt passed away Dec. 17, 2017, and this summer his estate contributed nearly $2 million to create an endowment to support the library’s Archives and Special Collections in perpetuity.

“Mansfield Library is integral to our mission as a student-focused research university,” said UM President Seth Bodnar. “Our collection is one of the best in the Northwest, and thanks to Mr. Merritt’s generosity, we will continue to grow this collection as a resource for years to come.”

“We are thrilled to receive this wonderful gift,” said Shali Zhang, dean of the library. “This donation will help us build stronger collections to support UM’s teaching, learning and research endeavors.”

She said the donation will be used for book purchases and to support the archives’ areas of greatest need.

Merritt graduated from UM with a degree in English in 1948, after serving in the Eighth Air Force. He moved to San Francisco in 1954 and began his career as a newspaper librarian at the San Francisco Examiner. He married his wife, Gertrude Hutchinson, soon after. Throughout his life he maintained a special affinity for UM and for Missoula, where he was born.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library serves UM students, faculty and community members. Their holdings include over 1.8 million physical items and over 800,000 electronic items. More than 100,000 historic photographs, hundreds of collections of unpublished documents and political papers, an extensive oral history collection and thousands of rare books and pamphlets are held in Archives and Special Collections, which also includes many rare volumes donated by Merritt.

The University of Montana Foundation, which fundraises and manages donations on behalf of the University, helped Merritt establish his gift and dispersed the funds to the library. An independent nonprofit, the foundation inspires philanthropic support to enhance excellence and opportunity at UM.

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Contact: Shali Zhang, dean, UM Mansfield Library, 406-243-6800, shali.zhang@mso.umt.edu; Kate Stober, UM Foundation, kate.stober@supportum.org, 480-744-2705.
MISSOULA – More than 100 University of Montana freshmen kicked off their undergraduate experience with a variety of wilderness adventures during the fifth annual Freshmen Wilderness Experience, sponsored by Campus Recreation's Outdoor Program and the Wilderness Institute.

The incoming freshmen spent four days and three nights exploring various wilderness areas around the state in the days immediately before fall semester began. Groups of 10 freshmen, each led by two trained student leaders, backpacked through mountains and paddled down rivers while navigating the challenges inherent when traveling long distances over rugged terrain in unpredictable weather.

Upon completing the program, the freshmen – some who
More Than 100 UM Students Embark on Wilderness Adventures Before Starting Classes - UM News - University Of Montana

arrived on campus not knowing anyone – created deep bonds with their fellow participants. The FWE program supports the University’s continuing efforts to increase retention by fostering peer networks and establishing a sense of engagement with the UM campus, Missoula and the surrounding wilderness areas.

“The wilderness setting serves an amazing venue to integrate into the UM community,” said Elizabeth Fricke, senior assistant director of UM’s Campus Recreation Outdoor Program. “Students who complete the program report that the experience instills a sense of confidence that helps them feel more comfortable as they approach the unknown aspects of college life.”

Fricke said one of the highlights of the program is the growing involvement of student who are FWE alumni. Each year former FWE students return to work as organizing staff and guides for the trips. The goal of the Outdoor Program and the Wilderness Institute is to make FWE a program run by students, for students.

The FWE is open to all incoming freshmen at UM, regardless if they have been on a multiday wilderness trip or have camped before. Learn more at http://www.umt.edu/freshman-wilderness-experience/.

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Contact: Elizabeth Fricke, senior assistant director, UM Campus Recreation Outdoor Program, 406-243-5172, elizabeth.fricke@umontana.edu; Steve Thompson, director, UM Campus Recreation, 406-243-5269, steve.thompson@umontana.edu.

Get Involved

Submit a Calendar Event
Request a News Release
Suggest a Story Idea
More Than 100 UM Students Embark on Wilderness Adventures Before Starting Classes - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – The Montana Ambassadors recently named a University of Montana professor in the College of Business the Mike Malone Educator of the Year.

Regents Professor of Marketing Jakki Mohr, who also serves as the Poe Family Distinguished Faculty Fellow at the UM College of Business, received the award at the Montana Ambassadors Innovate Montana Symposium last month in Billings.

“Jakki delights in mentoring the next generation of marketers and innovators, particularly young women,” said Susan Hay Patrick, CEO of United
Way of Missoula County, who nominated Mohr for the award. “She is at once brilliant, accomplished, inspirational and caring, and very generous with her time as a mentor.”

The Montana Ambassadors is a volunteer, nonprofit organization of leaders in business, education, and local and state government, with a common dedication to living and doing business in Montana and to furthering the best interests of the state.

Mohr teaches courses such as Principles of Marketing and Marketing of High-Technology Products and Innovations. She is known for bringing highly current and relevant information to class, providing hands-on applications of learning, offering ample opportunities for students to engage with the Missoula business community and exuding energy, enthusiasm and passion.

“Our students today are tomorrow's business leaders. They need to be well-equipped to handle a future that is marked by uncertainty: technological uncertainty, climate change, political turbulence, to name just a few,” Mohr said. “I'm committed to ensuring they have an innovative mindset, an analytical toolkit and the drive to make a difference.”

In her research, Mohr studies the challenges companies face in developing and commercializing breakthrough innovations. Her research, sponsored by the Marketing Science Institute, studies how companies use biomimicry – innovations inspired by nature, based on underlying biological mechanisms – to solve technical and engineering challenges. From 2012 to 2015, she served on the National Academies of Sciences Committee to overcome barriers to electric vehicle deployment.

A book she co-wrote with colleagues Sanjit Sengupta and Stanley Slater, “Marketing of High-Technology Products and Innovations,” is used by colleges and universities worldwide. In its third edition, it has been translated into three languages.

Mohr has received several other teaching awards, including the 2008 Outstanding Marketing Teacher Award from the Academy of Marketing Science and UM's Most Inspirational Teacher of the Year award in 2002.
Before joining UM in 1997, Mohr was an assistant professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Before beginning her academic career, Mohr worked in Silicon Valley for HP.

Mohr is on sabbatical for the 2018-19 academic year, during which her activities will include teaching at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand; giving the keynote address at the Australian Society of Ecological Restoration at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia; and receiving an Erskine Fellowship to work with the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand.

For more information on the Montana Ambassadors, visit https://www.montanaambassadors.com/.

Contact: Elizabeth Willy, director of marketing and communications, UM College of Business, 406-243-4436, elizabeth.willy@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Grizzly Scholarship Association and Summit Beverage will hold the 13th Annual Montana Wine & Beer Festival in support of GSA from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, in the Adams Center at the University of Montana.

The popular social event includes fine wine and beer tasting with food samples from some of Missoula’s top restaurants and caterers, as well as Montana artists displaying and selling art on site.

The evening’s festivities also will include a silent auction consisting of limited-edition originals, a variety of wine and beer items and Griz memorabilia.

Attendees must be at least 21 years old. Tickets cost $50 per person and are available at the GSA Office in the Adams Center, by calling 406-243-6481 or at the M Store in downtown Missoula at 124 N. Higgins Ave.

Tickets also are online at https://bit.ly/2nayCS4.
All proceeds from the event benefit the GSA and its mission to provide scholarships to student-athletes.

Contact: Jared Amoss, assistant director, UM Grizzly Scholarship Association, 406-243-5405, jared.amoss@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host three Vietnamese delegates who will present a special seminar on Monday, Sept. 10, about tourism, reforestation and human-wildlife conflicts in their country.

“Conservation and Education in the Dong Nai Biosphere Reserve, Vietnam” will be held at 4 p.m. in Social Science Building Room 344. The seminar is free and open to the public. Presenters will be Dr. Huoung Tu Vu, director of the Vietnam Forestry University, and the vice directors of the Dong Nai Biosphere Reserve, Huong Lan Dinh and Tam Minh.

A potluck dinner with the delegation will follow at 6 p.m. at 2300 Hilda Ave.

The seminar is sponsored by the Drollinger-Dial Family Foundation, UM’s Broader Impacts Group, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, and Environmental Studies.

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Vietnamese Delegation to Present Seminar at UM on Sept. 10 - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Marilyn Marler, UM natural areas specialist, 406-544-7189, marilyn.marler@umontana.edu.
Health Education Center at UM to Celebrate 10 Years

September 05, 2018

MISSOULA – The Western Montana Area Health Education Center at the University of Montana will celebrate its 10-year anniversary with an open house at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, at Missoula College, located at 1205 E. Broadway St.

The WMT-AHEC, one of five Montana AHEC offices, connects students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health.

“The health care workforce needs of today and the future are what we at WMT-AHEC are focused on,” said Barry Kenfield, WMT-AHEC chief operating officer. “Facilitating opportunities for both the ‘traditional’ and ‘nontraditional’ student to pursue careers in health care is our goal. We do so through our partnerships with the numerous teaching programs, health care organizations and other entities interested in supporting health care workforce initiatives.”

WMT-AHEC opened its doors in the UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences in 2008, with a staff of two, under the direction of Larry White. White retired in 2013, and this past summer, WMT-AHEC moved its offices to Missoula College, where it remains under the direction of Kenfield and has expanded its staff to seven.
Congress developed the AHEC program in 1971 to recruit, train and retain a health professions workforce committed to rural and underserved populations. Montana AHEC is funded, in part, through a federal Health Resources Services Administration grant.

Between 2007 and 2012, the central AHEC Program Office, located in Bozeman, initiated and developed the five regional AHEC centers. Each regional center works to develop health care workforce strategies and consists of a director/program manager, support staff and an established regional advisory council. Montana AHEC regional centers serve as clearinghouses and disseminators of health information to schools, families, medical students and professionals, and to the communities in which they operate.

WMT-AHEC milestones include the feasibility study and establishment of the Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana; the creation of the Rural Behavioral Health Primary Care Collaborative, which was recognized by the National Rural Health Association in 2013; the establishment of HealthCARE Montana, a three-year program funded through the federal Department of Labor and Industry; the Behavioral Health Workforce Program, an education and training program for Montana University System graduate behavioral health students; and, most recently, the AHEC Scholars Program, an interprofessional certification program for Montana University System health profession students.

WMT-AHEC also coordinates the Friday Medical Conference, a grand rounds lecture series for Montana health professionals and health profession students; hosts MedStart, a one-week, summer high school health care career immersion program; and hosts the biannual Montana Pain Conference.

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

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**Contact:** Martha Robertson, program coordinator, UM Western Montana Area Health Education Center, 406-243-7946, martha.robertson@umontana.edu.
UM Accounting Program Ranks Nationally for CPA Exam Pass Rate

September 04, 2018

MISSOULA – The University of Montana accounting program has a long-standing reputation for preparing top accounting graduates. Now it boasts a new impressive statistic: In 2017, UM students and graduates passed the certified public accountant exam at a rate higher than any other four-year public school in the West.

UM’s 69.5 percent pass rate on the four-part exam is the highest in Montana and well above the national average of 52.9 percent, according to new rankings released by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. UM ranks above schools including University of Oregon, University of Colorado and University of Utah. Among all large public and private schools in the Pacific Northwest, it ranks second behind only Gonzaga.

“This ranking really speaks to the quality of our students and faculty,” said Josh Herbold, chair of the Department of Accounting and Finance in UM’s College of Business. “When you have a strong curriculum and excellent students who are willing to work hard, you get strong results.”

Terri Herron, director of the Master of Accountancy Program, said that passing the exam upon graduation sets UM alumni apart from members of their cohort, who often start exam preparation classes only once they’ve joined an
“Years of faculty dedication to student success and the broader profession of accounting have helped build the graduate program’s strong reputation,” Herron said. “The pass rate for our graduate students is even higher at 75 percent in 2017. They are rock stars.”

The ranking isn’t UM accounting’s only recent national recognition. Public Accounting Report’s 36th Annual Professors Survey ranked UM’s master of accountancy program 16th in the country for master’s programs with less than 17 full-time accounting faculty members in 2017. UM placed 19th when compared to programs of all sizes in the West, one of four regions the survey ranked. 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.

Not surprisingly, employer recruiting for UM accounting graduates is competitive. About 50 firms actively recruit potential accounting hires from the College of Business each year. The program’s master students are in especially high demand. The 10-year average for master’s alumni who have jobs within three months of graduation is 94.7 percent, with about half of all grads working out of state.

“Our programs’ reputation is founded on a history of success – passing the CPA exam, launching a career right away and ultimately being a professional in one of the most widely respected professions,” Herron said.

UM’s accounting programs are the only programs in Montana that are separately accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Accounting is one of the original degrees offered by the College of Business; the master of accountancy program was founded in 1993.

For more about the UM master’s in accountancy program, visit http://www.business.umt.edu/macct.

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Contact: Elizabeth Willy, director of marketing and communications, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-4436, elizabeth.willy@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – What happens when you mix a biologist who studies beetle horns with scientists who spend their time exploring predator-prey dynamics? You get a better understanding of why elk shed their antlers much later than males of any other North American species.

University of Montana researchers and their partners recently published a study in Nature Ecology and Evolution.
chronicling an evolutionary tie between wolves and when bull elk shed their antlers. The study is online at https://go.nature.com/2NK3rIR.

The authors were UM doctoral candidate Matt Metz, along with UM co-authors Doug Emlen and Mark Hebblewhite, Dan Stahler and Doug Smith of the National Park Service, and Dan MacNulty of Utah State University.

They discovered that wolves in Yellowstone National Park preferentially hunted bulls who already had shed their antlers over those who still had them during late winter.

The finding suggests that antlers are used for more than just competing for cows – that they help deter predators, too – which could help explain why bulls shed their antlers long after the rut.

“Because wolves often prefer elk in these systems, male elk uniquely keep their antlers for much of the winter,” Metz said. “Other species, say moose in our study system, shed their antlers beginning in December. We believe elk evolved to keep their antlers longer than any other North American deer because they use their antlers as an effective deterrent against wolf predation.”

Antlers evolved to improve breeding success. The bigger the antlers, the more likely a bull is to successfully breed cows during the fall. In many species, these types of weapons also serve secondary purposes, but those reasons are not always well understood, as is the case for elk.

Bulls shed their antlers beginning at the end of each winter and immediately start growing another set. Getting rid of antlers as soon as possible removes a cumbersome burden and gives individual bulls a jumpstart at growing antlers for next year’s rut.

But as a whole, elk shed their antlers months later compared to other North American deer species, and shedding is staggered over a two month period beginning in March, suggesting there might be other reasons to keep antlers around a little longer.
“Antlers are the product of sexual selection, where males are competing over breeding opportunities in a short time window in the fall,” Metz said. “Here we show that the evolution of antlers was also influenced by other things in an elk’s environment, like wolf predation, and that a secondary function also helped to shape the characteristics of this structure, such as when antlers are shed.”

Metz, a longtime Yellowstone wolf researcher, analyzed over a decade’s worth of data from the Yellowstone Wolf Project, a long-term study recording interactions between wolves and their prey.

Wolves in Yellowstone often kill bull elk during the winter months, but Metz and his co-authors found that wolves strongly preferred to kill individuals who had already shed their antlers – even though they were often in better condition than bulls who still had their rack. The results showed that antlers are indeed an important predatory deterrent for elk – a secondary function that could help explain variation in antler retention time across species in temperate climates.

“These males that shed their antlers first are more vulnerable to being killed by wolves despite being in better nutritional condition,” Metz said. “The individuals who are in the best condition are the first to drop their antlers to get a leg up on growing larger antlers for the next season and therefore gain the greatest reproductive success. Wolves mostly target individuals who are very young, old or in poor nutritional condition, which are characteristics that make them vulnerable. Here we identified a new, unexpected vulnerability – shedding antlers early.”

The study highlights an evolutionary Catch-22: Weapons come with both benefits and costs. Bulls who drop their antlers early may grow relatively larger antlers in the upcoming year, winning more cows, but they’re also at greater risk to become dinner first.

For younger bulls unlikely to be successful in the upcoming rut anyway, the risk is too high. These males are among the last to cast their antlers.

Metz earned a B.S. in wildlife biology from UM and has studied predator-prey dynamics in Yellowstone since 2002.

“The study first came about through observations that I had when I worked as a seasonal field technician for the Yellowstone Wolf Project in the early 2000s,” he said. “We usually see antler-casting starting at the tail-end of March. But the winter of 2004-05 was milder, and bulls were shedding their antlers a little earlier.”

One day he and another researcher spotted a wolf-killed elk.

“We hiked into it, and it was an antlerless male in early March,” Metz said. “We hadn’t seen any living bull elk without antlers yet on the landscape. We thought, ‘That’s kind of interesting.’ We just started to notice this relationship where we would observe wolves encountering male elk, and they seemed to be focusing on those who had already shed their antlers. It took 13 years of data to actually test this idea.”

Along the way, Metz pulled in other co-authors, including UM professors Hebblewhite and Emlen.

“To me, one of the coolest things about this project is how it started,” said Hebblewhite, a wildlife biology professor in UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation who focuses on large-mammal predator-prey systems.
Researchers Study How Wolf Predation Shapes Elk Antler Evolution - UM News - University Of Montana

“It started with Matt just being observant, noticing something in nature, and then diving into it over a decade to find out why. This is the heart of the scientific process.”

Hebblewhite has studied wolves and their prey for a quarter century, but this is the first time he’d stopped to consider what makes antlers antlers. “A lot of the time, the reasons we study nature are to control or manage it, to make it do something we want for us,” he said. “This is a case of wonder at its finest.”

Emlen, an evolutionary biologist and professor in the Division of Biological Sciences, said what was most fun about the project was the nature of the collaboration, which crossed departments and disciplines.

“Matt is a wolf biologist. And Hebblewhite is an elk biologist, but he doesn’t focus on antlers,” Emlen said. “I work on rhino beetles, and I study animal weapons – beetle horns. I spend most of my time thinking about why weapons are so big. It’s been a blast to work on antlers, because those are giant weapons. It’s been a wild ride. That a beetle biologist who studies weapons can collaborate with elk and wolf biologists adds a fun twist to the story.”

The study was funded in part by the National Science Foundation’s Long Term Research in Environmental Biology program, which aims to help sustain research projects lasting 10 years or longer.

“This is a really sophisticated look at a complicated behavior,” said Kendra McLauchlan, NSF program director. “They were able to make this discovery because of 13 years of careful observations. Sometimes it is really important to have that long-term record of observations.”

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Contact: Matt Metz, Ph.D. candidate, matthew.metz@umontana.edu; Mark Hebblewhite, UM professor of ungulate ecology, 406-243-6675, mark.hebblewhite@umontana.edu; Doug Emlen, UM biology professor, doug.emlen@mso.umt.edu.