January 2019 news releases

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Please contact the instructor: greg.twigg@mso.umt.edu
Please contact the instructor: michael.musick@mso.umt.edu
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Please contact Erin McDaniel at erin.mcdaniel@umontana.edu

Please contact the instructor:
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**Contact:** Office of the Registrar, 406-243-5600, registration@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The latest asbestos tests in McGill Hall at the University of Montana have prompted campus administrators to close the building until further notice.

Classes, labs and other activities will be rescheduled, and information will be posted on all exterior doors of the building.

UM is expanding testing to analyze the entirety of McGill Hall. This will take several days to complete.

“In an abundance of caution and because the safety of our students, faculty and staff is our highest priority, we made the decision to close the facility," said Paul Lasiter, UM vice president for operations and finance.

In an email to campus, affected employees were advised to work with their immediate supervisors to make alternate work arrangements.

“We want them to be advised that the building closure likely will continue for at least the next two weeks," Lasiter
Presence of Asbestos Prompts UM to Close McGill Hall - UM News - University Of Montana

said. “We appreciate everyone’s cooperation as we make arrangements to ensure the safety of our community.”

UM will host an informational meeting about McGill Hall at noon Friday, Feb. 1, in the third-floor University Center Theater.

McGill Hall was constructed in 1953. Originally called the Women’s Center, it was renamed McGill Hall in 1984 to honor Dr. Caroline McGill, who in 1916 became the third female physician in Montana.

The building was remodeled in 2004, and an addition was added in 2009. The building contains the Associated Students of UM Child Care Preschool, which was moved from the building Jan. 28 after tests detected the presence of asbestos. McGill also contains departments such as Media Arts and Health and Human Performance, as well as other faculty offices and labs.

An employee first noticed an asbestos concern in McGill Hall on Dec. 12, which led to the closure and cleaning of several offices. Subsequent testing has since confirmed the presence of asbestos in other parts of the building.

UM spokeswoman Paula Short said the University will update campus and the public with more details as they become available. Information also is being posted online at http://bit.ly/2SgeMpz.

###

Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-5608, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
‘Odyssey of the Stars’ to Honor YouTube Science Communicator, UM Alumna

January 31, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana College of Visual and Performing Arts will proudly recognize Emily Graslie, a 2011 UM graduate and chief curiosity correspondent at Chicago’s Field Museum, during its 19th annual “Odyssey of the Stars – A Celebration of Artistic Journeys.”

Each year’s “Odyssey of the Stars” honors outstanding UM visual and performing arts alumni and tells the story of
their artistic journeys, showcasing the many different roads to success that an artist can travel.

This year’s performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre. While honoring Graslie, the event also showcases UM students and faculty members from UM’s Art, Media Arts, Music and Theatre & Dance schools.

A panel discussion will feature Graslie from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, in the Music Recital Hall.

Graslie earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from UM, drawing inspiration from the Phillip L. Wright Zoological Museum’s vertebrate collection. She worked at the museum during college as a volunteer intern, and, a year after graduating, she drew more inspiration from the experience as she co-created the educational YouTube channel “The Brain Scoop.”

Her ease in front of the camera, enthusiasm and energy has contributed to a following of nearly 500,000 subscribers. As chief curiosity correspondent, she uses a variety of media to communicate the importance of natural history museums. She collaborates with museums of natural history and connects scientific discoveries with real-world issues, teaching her fans with passion and joy.

Graslie’s numerous awards and recognitions include being a recipient of the American Alliance of Museum’s Nancy Hanks Award for Professional Excellence; six-time Webby Award honoree and nominee in the Online Science/Education Channel and Web Personality/Host categories; one of Chicago Tribune’s 2017 Chicagoans of the Year; and a member of Forbes’ 2018 “30 Under 30” list in education. A butterfly species in Ecuador, the Wahydra graslieae, was recently named after her.

“Odyssey of the Stars” tickets go on sale Friday, Feb. 8, and cost $30 for the general public and $15 for students. They’re available at all GrizTix outlets, online at http://www.griztix.com or by calling 888-MONTANA. Tickets also will be available at the door.

“Odyssey” sponsorships that help underwrite the event also are available. For more information visit the “Odyssey of the Stars” website at http://www.umt.edu/umarts/odyssey.

###

Contact: Peggy Nesbitt, director of arts information and outreach, UM College of Visual and Performing Arts, 406-243-4971, peggy.nesbitt@umontana.edu.

Get Involved
Submit a Calendar Event
Request a News Release
Suggest a Story Idea
MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance will present the one-act plays “Biography of a Constellation” and "Woyzeck," directed by Master of Fine Art students, to audiences this February.

The performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, Feb. 6-10, and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 9-10, in the Masquer Theatre in UM's Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center.

All tickets cost $10 and are available by calling the UMArts Box Office at 406-243-4581 from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or by ordering online at http://www.umt.edu/theatredance.

“Biography of a Constellation,” by Lila Rose Kaplan and directed by UM master’s student Jadd Davis, is a beautiful and hilarious contemporary play that explores the convergence of science, art, myth and love through the semi-biographical lens of pioneering astronomer Annie Jump Cannon. Set in three simultaneous locales – Greek mythology, the astronomy archives of Harvard and a dysfunctional planetarium – “Biography of a Constellation” takes the audience on a journey to the stars then asks them how they got there.
“Woyzeck,” by Georg Büchner and directed and adapted by UM master’s student Shane Bridger Lutz, is the tragic tale of a woman’s clash with power, anarchy and madness within a society that slowly crushes her underfoot. This collaged piece of epic theater speaks to the underdog in all of us and brings as much fire and fury to the stage today as it did when it was written almost 200 years ago. Adapted for modern American audiences, “Woyzeck” brings physicality and abstract theater to the forefront in an investigation of hierarchy and the role of the individual in toppling any and all oppressive forces. It echoes the sentiment “Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere.”

Audience discretion is advised. “Woyzeck,” performed after the intermission, includes mature themes and content.

A complete schedule of UM School of Theatre & Dance productions for the academic year is online at http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/Season/18-19-season.php.

For more information, contact Davis at 509-389-0531 or jadd.davis@umontana.edu and Lutz at 919-721-7138 or shane.lutz@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Jadd Davis, UM School of Theatre & Dance, 509-389-0531, jadd.davis@umontana.edu; Shane Lutz, UM School of Theatre & Dance, 919-721-7138, shane.lutz@umontana.edu.
McGill Hall Closure

January 31, 2019

Find the most current information on the McGill Hall closure at https://www.umt.edu/facilities/asbestos/default.php.

Asbestos test results received Jan. 31 have prompted University administration to close McGill Hall until further notice. Classes, labs and other activities will be rescheduled, and information will be posted on all exterior doors of the building.

A list of McGill Hall classes that have been moved to alternate locations is available here.

We are expanding airborne and surface tests to analyze the entirety of McGill Hall. This will take several days to complete. At this time, all air quality tests in the building have indicated that the air is safe to breathe, but surface tests indicated the presence of asbestos in several locations. In an abundance of caution and because the safety of our students, faculty and staff is our highest priority, we made the decision to close the facility.

We recommend that McGill Hall employees leave all office materials and personal belongings in the building. This will minimize the risk of spreading asbestos fibers to other areas on or off campus. All offices and the building will remain locked and your items secure.
Employees should work with their immediate supervisors to make alternate work arrangements. Be advised that the building closure likely continue the next two weeks or longer.

Employees with offices in McGill Hall have been moved to new work spaces on campus. Employees who need keys to their new space should report to the UM Police Department in the Physical Plant with their Griz Card to complete a key card. They will not be charged to fee for keys to their new offices.

Employees and students who have personal items in the building can call 243-6131 to arrange for retrieval of their items through with UM Police Department.

We appreciate your cooperation as we make arrangements to ensure the safety of our community.

More information will be posted on this website as it becomes available.

UM News Release: Presence of Asbestos Prompts UM to Close McGill Hall

Asbestos Test Data: ASUM Childcare (PDF)

Asbestos Test Data: McGill Hall (PDF)

Asbestos Test Data: McGill Hall Room 212 (PDF)

EPA Asbestos Frequently Asked Questions (PDF)

Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, Office of the President, 406-243-5806, paula.short@umontana.edu.
UM Dining Recognized for Supporting Higher Animal Welfare Standards

January 31, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana is receiving recognition for its commitment to supporting better animal welfare standards in the food industry by purchasing Certified Humane cage-free eggs for all of its operations.

The nonprofit organization Farm Forward, which promotes higher animal welfare practices in the food industry, recognized UM Dining with an invitation to join its Leadership Circle. Leadership Circle members are chosen for their commitment to sourcing 100 percent higher-welfare animal products in at
UM Dining has a long-standing commitment to purchasing sustainable food products, and has been buying cage-free eggs from Wilcox farms for several years.

“The relationship with Wilcox is really important to us,” said Trevor Lowell, UM Dining director of sustainability. “Not only are they a family-owned business that is leading the industry on sustainable practices, they source a large number of their eggs from farms in the Great Falls area.”

In order to carry the Certified Humane label, businesses must adhere to strict production standards that ensure safer and more humane treatment of their animals. Standards are enforced by independent third-party audits. UM Dining purchases over 30,000 pounds of Certified Humane eggs each year. Farm Forward calculates that by sourcing Certified Humane eggs, UM Dining ensures better lives for more than 1,000 hens.

Cage-free eggs are just one part of UM Dining’s larger sustainable purchasing strategy, which includes Montana grass-finished beef and a focus on local producers. The department’s Farm to College program has supported Montana farmers and ranchers since 2003. In the 16 years since the program began, UM Dining has spent over $10 million on Montana agricultural products.

“We work hard to provide excellent food that is both good for our guests and good for the Earth,” said Camp Howard, director of UM Dining. “Rewarding better agricultural practices, supporting local farmers and ranchers, educating our guests about issues that affect the food system: These are all part of our broader sustainability strategy.”

The mission of the Leadership Circle is to leverage the buying power of universities, businesses and restaurants to change the way animals are raised for food. Other members include businesses like Airbnb and Dr. Bronner’s, and universities, including the University of California, Berkeley, and Villanova.

“Leadership Circle institutions exemplify values-based food purchasing,” says Andrew DeCoriolis, executive director of Farm Forward. “Through thoughtful procurement policies, universities like the University of Montana improve the welfare of farmed animals while meeting their students’ demands for more ethical and sustainable food.”

For more information about UM Dining’s sustainable business practices, visit http://www.justeatsMT.com.

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**Contact:** Trevor Lowell, UM Dining director of sustainability, 406-243-4042, trevor.lowell@mso.umt.edu.
UM Dining Recognized for Supporting Higher Animal Welfare Standards - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Business Student Group Earns International Recognition

MISSOULA – The University of Montana student group for management information systems majors has been recognized as a Distinguished Student Chapter by the Association for Information Systems, a worldwide governing body for MIS professionals, educators and students. The
award represents the eighth consecutive year the UM group has earned AIS recognition.

The Montana Information Systems Association, or MISA, is the College of Business membership group for students studying MIS, which prepares graduates to work as IT consultants, systems analysts, business analysts, programmers, database administrators, web developers, network administrators and more.

AIS annually recognizes chapters that excel in areas such as professional development, membership, careers in information systems, community service, fundraising and communications.

In past years, the student group has received recognition from AIS for outstanding membership activities, fundraising, careers and communications. MISA activities include events like the fall 2018 Storytime with the Professors, tours of potential workplaces, and a holiday party and networking event held on the top floor of Missoula company onX Maps. The latter event was held with major support from onX, ClassPass and FAST Enterprises.

Business student Emily Brinkmann, who served as MISA president in fall 2018, said the group gives members a more personalized look at the MIS major and provides networking opportunities with other business students.

“These are your peers and are people who understand what you, as a student, are going through and can help guide you,” Brinkmann said. “It is also a lot of fun. MISA has a great alumni network and great connections with employers around the country.”

Brinkmann credited MISA’s fall 2018 vice president, Colton Kloppel, for his work preparing the written submission that led to this year’s recognition.

MIS Professor David Firth, the group’s adviser, said the students work hard to host interesting events and speakers that appeal to all majors, not just MIS students. This holistic approach has helped MISA continue to grow.

“We’ve spent a good deal of time developing leadership skills in our MIS majors,” Firth said, “and one of the results
has been outstanding leadership of the student MIS group."

The University’s MIS majors have an incredible track record of career success: Ninety-four percent of students in the major have a job at graduation, with more than half having multiple job offers. Top employers include respected companies such as ATG, a local technology consulting firm doing over $40 million of work outside Montana; KPMG, a global technology consulting firm with offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Portland; and FAST Enterprises, which is based in Denver and does technology implementations in places like New York; Washington, D.C.; Boston; and Wellington, New Zealand.

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**Contact:** Elizabeth Willy, director of marketing and communications, UM College of Business, 406-243-4436, elizabeth.willy@mso.umt.edu.
UM Food Pantry to Celebrate Grand Opening Feb. 12

January 30, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host a grand opening for the new UM Food Pantry for students from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the West Atrium desk on the first floor of the University Center.

The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting and enjoy treats, speeches and a silent auction to support the UM Food Pantry. Missoula Mayor John Engen and others will offer brief remarks at the beginning of the event.

Over the past few years, a group of students, faculty and staff members from UM and Missoula College saw a need to support students facing food insecurity, and formed a committee on Food and Housing Insecurity to help create the UM Food Pantry. The pantry partners with Missoula Food Bank, Montana Food Bank Network, the Missoula Chamber of Commerce, Blackfoot, Missoula Federal Credit Union and other community organizations.

The pantry is located at the West Atrium desk in the UC and is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays. There also are self-serve “cupboards” located at Missoula College Room 430, TRiO Support Services in UM's Lommasson Center Room 180, the VETS Office at 1000 E. Beckwith Ave., and American Indian Student Services in UM's Payne Family Native American Center Suite 113.
The UM Food Pantry accepts nonperishable food donations, as well as toiletries, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products and household cleaning supplies. Monetary donations can be submitted anytime online at http://www.umt.edu/foodpantry and are used to help fund pantry operations and to purchase undersupplied food and products.

To make a donation or get involved, call the UM Food Pantry at 406-243-5125 or email umpantry@umontana.edu.

Contact: Karen Schlatter, University Center Special Projects and Events, 406-243-4191, karen.schlatter@umontana.edu; Kat Cowley, supervisor, UM Food Pantry, 406-243-5125, umpantry@umontana.edu.
UM News Service

MISSOULA – University of Montana Associate Professor Andrew Larson has been named the director of UM’s Wilderness Institute. Larson will lead interdisciplinary programs to help further the understanding of wilderness and wildlands stewardship through education, research and service.

Housed within UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, the 45-year-old Wilderness Institute provides students, land managers and the public with research products, educational programs, resources and
technical tools to understand public lands conservation and stewardship. The institute also shares the social and ecological values of wilderness.

"Wilderness is more valuable to society now than ever before, and Missoula is the center of the world for wilderness science, education and training," Larson said. "The legacy of the Wilderness Institute is a huge part of that, and it will continue to play an important role well into the future."

As director, Larson said he plans to continue advancing significant efforts of the institute’s focal points of education, research and service.

"Education is identified as one of the purposes of wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act, and the Wilderness Institute will continue to use wilderness as its best classroom," Larson said.

He also aims to grow research activity by supporting faculty and graduate students conducting wilderness and wildlands research as well as engaging the University community and the public in the rich resources and programs fostered by the Wilderness Institute.

Larson earned bachelor and doctoral degrees from the University of Washington and joined the UM faculty in 2009. He currently is an associate professor of forest ecology and researches forest and fire ecology, forest management, restoration and climate change adaptation. He has a long history of collaboration with leaders in wilderness science. In 2013, Larson was recognized with the U.S. Forest Service National Wilderness Award for Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Research.

“Andrew brings to the institute a deep and multifaceted perspective on wilderness that integrates ecological science, policy, education and management,” said FCFC Dean Tom DeLuca. “Andrew is an internationally renowned ecologist with a passion for wilderness and an understanding of the complexities of protected areas health and management. It is my hope that his passion, scholarship and diligence will propel the Wilderness Institute to a new level.”
Established in 1975, the Wilderness Institute was organized by a group of scientists, educators, conservationists and public land managers in response to ongoing political strife over wilderness allocation and management. Since then, Wilderness Institute projects have responded to a variety of wildlands issues and needs, including performing field research at the request of Sen. Lee Metcalf which led to the establishment of nine wilderness study areas in Montana.

The Wilderness Institute also led the organization of field studies for the first wilderness inventory of lands managed by Bureau of Land Management. Additionally, the Wilderness Institute has worked with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on the establishment of the Mission Mountain Tribal Wilderness, a unique tribally-protected area adjacent to the federally-managed Mission Mountains Wilderness.

Current Wilderness Institute programs at UM include the wilderness and civilization undergraduate program and wilderness studies minor degree; the wilderness management graduate certificate; the Freshman Wilderness Experience, a wilderness orientation program; Wilderness Connect, an online wilderness information library that garners half a million visitors each year; and a citizen science program that empowers community volunteers to work with experienced field leaders to monitor the status of public lands in Montana.

For more information on UM’s Wilderness Institute, visit [http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wi](http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wi).

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**Contact:** Andrew Larson, UM Wilderness Institute director, 406-243-5521, [a.larson@umontana.edu](mailto:a.larson@umontana.edu).
MISSOULA – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area has released its 2019 summer camp lineup.

The camps invite children ages 6-14 to dive into a range of science-related subjects from June to August. Enrollment for spectrUM’s summer camps will open on Friday, Feb. 1, for spectrUM members. On Saturday, Feb. 16, summer camp enrollment will open to the general public.

Registration can be found online at https://spectrum.umt.edu/, where the public can also purchase spectrUM memberships, request a scholarship or make online donations.

spectrUM’s summer camps include a variety of options, including Get Set to Be a Vet, Treasure Island Adventures, The Magic of Chemistry, Makers
Academy and Camp Contraption. The majority of spectrUM summer camps will be held at Missoula College’s River Campus at 1205 E. Broadway St., with a few camps taking place at spectrUM Discovery Area, located at 812 Toole Ave.

“At spectrUM’s summer camps, kids can try everything from designing and building catapults and bridges to extracting DNA and hunting for a treasure chest on a pirate’s map,” said spectrUM Associate Director Jessie Herbert-Meny. “We’re especially excited for the launch of our online registration this year, as well as our new summer camp venue at Missoula College.”

Serving more than 200,000 Montanans annually through museum and mobile programming, spectrUM is UM’s hands-on science center dedicated to inspiring the next generation about STEM, higher education and career pathways. In addition to spectrUM Discovery Area, spectrUM engages in programming at EmPower Place at Missoula Food Bank and Community Center, in the Bitterroot Valley and on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

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

The public can visit spectrUM’s museum from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 per person.

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Contact: Jessie Herbert-Meny, spectrUM associate director, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
UM to Host 16th Annual Dance Benefit Concert

January 29, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance will present its 16th annual American College Dance Association Benefit Concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1-2, at UM.

The concert features performers and choreographers who will attend the Northwest Regional Conference of the American College Dance Association in March at the University of Utah. The choreographers’ work at the conference will be adjudicated by nationally and internationally renowned dance artists and critics.
The Benefit Concert is a compilation of original choreography in a range of genres, including dance theatre, contemporary ballet, contemporary modern dance, hip hop and contact improvisation. Tickets are available at the door, with a suggested donation of $5-$10 or more gratefully accepted.

The Benefit Concert helps to raise critical funds for UM dance students to attend ACDA, while also showcasing the latest dance work from the students, guest artists and faculty before they represent UM at the conference. The concert, held in the Performing Arts Radio/TV Center’s Open Space (Room 005), is entirely student run, with full lighting, costumes, sound design, choreography and performance.

“The ACDA Benefit Concert promises to share excellent choreography and stunning performance, and all of the proceeds help to support our students in their artistic education,” Bradley Browning said. “ACDA is the highlight for most university dance students, and this is a great chance for audiences to help them get there.”

Highlights of this year’s concert will include:

- Junior dance major and Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate Tiki Preston’s “Lately Lavender.” Representing the UM School of Theatre & Dance in the Adjudicated Concert at ACDA, Preston’s stunning choreography and solo performance, coupled with its sculptural design and exceptional movement, embody the power of dance.
- Excerpts from a newly choreographed work by UM guest artist Faith Morrison. “Threshold” features eight dance students embodying the sensitive and virtuosic movement that Morrison has cultivated over the past nine years. After completing her Bachelor of Arts in dance at UM and her Master of Fine Arts in dance at the University of Oregon, Morrison danced professionally with Portland’s Polaris Dance Theatre. “Threshold” also will represent UM in the Adjudicated Concert at ACDA.
- A sneak peek of dance Professor Nicole Bradley Browning’s evening-length work, which will premiere at “Dance in Concert” in April 2019. This most recent piece, “two if by sea,” features graduating dance majors Olivia Pillidge and Logan Prichard. “Two if by sea” tenderly takes the audience along the journey of a relationship designed by its resilience, vulnerability and grace. Bradley Browning’s work will represent UM in the
Informal Concert at ACDA.

For more information call Bradley Browning at 406-529-3331 or email nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu.

A complete schedule of UM School of theatre & Dance productions for the 2018-19 academic year is online at http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/Season/default.php.

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Contact: Nicole Bradley Browning, dance professor, UM School of Theatre & Dance, 406-529-3331, nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu.
Grant Allows UM to Expand Neuroscience Education Across Multiple Colleges

January 28, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s mission to shape agile learners will take a step forward thanks to a $300,000 grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation.

The grant will help UM faculty members in neuroscience, literature, psychology, philosophy and languages create courses with neuroscience themes for both science and non-science students. This new undergraduate curriculum – which builds on UM’s growing neuroscience major – stresses the impact of fast-evolving brain science on our understanding of a wide range of human experiences, including literature, history, art, language and education.

Students majoring in the humanities or social sciences will have new opportunities to explore neuroscience and increase their scientific literacy on topics of increasing social relevance,
such as Alzheimer’s disease and addiction. Students majoring in a science field will become more adept critical thinkers as they are exposed to the analytical approaches used by those in the humanities and other areas.

All students will enhance their critical-thinking and communication skills while collaboratively exploring how our understanding of the brain and cognition influences a diverse range of fields.

The courses also will include a strong emphasis on research to keep students at the forefront of these topics. To have a greater impact across Montana, specific neuroscience units are being developed for education students pursuing training as K-12 science teachers.

“Addressing society’s critical challenges requires drawing from and working across many disciplines,” said UM President Seth Bodnar. “This new undergraduate curriculum takes advantage of the intersections of UM’s strengths in the humanities, social sciences and sciences, providing students with an education that prepares them to be agile problem-solvers whose knowledge and skills span disciplines.”

Leading the project from the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences is Regents Professor Richard Bridges, director of UM’s Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience. Bridges worked with faculty members Ashby Kinch (English), Sarah Certel (biology), Nathan Insel (psychology) and Christopher Comer (neuroscience) in the College of Humanities and Sciences and Martin Horejsi (teaching and learning) in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences to design this multidisciplinary program.

“We are grateful to the Keck Foundation for recognizing UM’s exceptional ability to integrate STEM education with the many disciplines in the humanities in which our faculty excel,” said Provost Jon Harbor.

Dean Jenny McNulty of the College of Humanities and Sciences echoed that opinion.

“The expertise of our faculty and their desire and ability to work collaboratively make this a strong and vibrant partnership,” she said. “This grant will result in new and interesting opportunities for our students, providing a deeper learning experience.”

The new curriculum will be in place for fall semester 2019. Current estimates suggest upward of 1,000 students will benefit over the initial three-year period of the grant. Bridges hopes the project establishes a blueprint for other strong science and technology programs at UM.
“Once we prove the effectiveness of this education model, it can be used to link any number of science disciplines with the humanities, social sciences and arts – possibly even with business and law,” he said.

This is the first grant that UM has been awarded from the Keck Foundation. Bridges is optimistic the funding will inspire further private support for this and similar programs.

“Keck Foundation grants are extremely competitive, and receiving one highlights not only UM's growing neuroscience program, but also the tremendous value that lies in building dynamic interdisciplinary academic programs that will ensure the success of a wide array of UM students,” he said.

The grant is part of Campaign Montana, a comprehensive, seven-year fundraising campaign that aims to inspire $400 million in philanthropic giving to the University of Montana by the end of 2020. Donors will help achieve UM's vision of a university that puts student success at the forefront, driving excellence and innovation in teaching, research and learning.

The campaign is managed by the UM Foundation, an independent, nonprofit organization that inspires philanthropic support to enhance excellence and opportunity at UM.

Visit https://www.campaignmontana.org/ to learn more.

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**About the Keck Foundation**

Based in Los Angeles, the W. M. Keck Foundation was established in 1954 by the late W. M. Keck, founder of the Superior Oil Company. The Foundation’s grant making focuses primarily on pioneering efforts in the areas of medical research, science and engineering and undergraduate education. The foundation also maintains a Southern California Grant Program that provides support for the Los Angeles community, with a special emphasis on children and youth. For more information visit http://www.wmkeck.org.

**About UM’s Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience**

The center fosters multidisciplinary research and training at the interface of molecular neurophysiology, cellular neurobiology and molecular neuropharmacology. A diverse group of faculty representing synthetic chemists, molecular biologists, physiologists and clinicians form a dynamic and collaborative neuroscience research group. Learn more at http://health.umt.edu/csfn.

**Contact:** Richard Bridges, UM Regents Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, 406-243-4972, richard.bridges@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The U.S. Department of Education has agreed to a significant reduction in the fines levied against the University of Montana over reporting requirements of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crimes Statistics Act (the Clery Act).

Last September, DOE fined the University $966,614 for failing to comply with reporting requirements. After further review, the department reduced the fine to $395,000.

In an email message to campus, UM President Seth Bodnar announced the fine amount and a payment plan for the next five years. He also affirmed the institution’s commitment to safety and the procedures already in place.

“It is important to note the errors identified in these past reports have to do with process and the categorization of crimes in the statistics that were submitted,” he wrote. “This is not an issue of the University’s efforts around prevention and response to crime. Our commitment to campus safety is unwavering. The University of Montana,
like all other colleges and universities, must maintain a safe campus where all of our students can learn, thrive and grow. It is fundamental to our mission as an institution of higher learning, and we will continue our tireless efforts to ensure a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all.”

UM initially was fined for crime statistics omissions in the institution’s Annual Security Report for the years 2012-15. UM will pay the fine with monthly payments through January 2024.

UM spokeswoman Paula Short noted the University has made important and significant steps to address its Clery Act compliance.

“The University has instituted changes aimed at ensuring compliance in how it classifies and reports crime statistics. Specifically, a Clery Core Team meets every two weeks to review the campus police crime log and all reported incidents at UM. This is in addition to the UM Police daily review of the campus crime log,” she said.

“Clery compliance requires keeping current on federal policies and guidelines, understanding the roles and responsibilities of campus officials and careful review and reporting of crime statistics to ensure accuracy in the Annual Security Report,” Short said. “We are building a strong compliance program to ensure we meet full intent and requirements of the Clery Act.”

The current UM’s Annual Security Report can be viewed online at


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Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-5608, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A popular website that offers science-based information to help companies and individuals succeed recently featured research conducted by University of Montana Assistant Professor Theresa Floyd.

Floyd, who teaches and researches business management in UM’s College of Business, conducted research on employee retention and resilience during a corporate merger. Her work, which involved colleagues from five additional institutions, was highlighted in an article on Thrive Global, owned by the Huffington Post Media Group. The article, “Coping With Employee’s Post-Merger Uncertainty,” provides direction for businesses on how to best help employees navigate workplace transition following a merger.
“Employees’ uncertainty regarding how a merger is going to impact their job security and daily routines can disrupt their job satisfaction and make them more likely to leave,” Floyd said. “When high-value employees choose to leave, it can have a negative impact on the success of the merger and the organization as a whole.”

That’s important information for the modern workforce, according to Floyd, who says, “There are few events in the professional life of an employee that are as stressful as when the business they work for is acquired or merges with another company.”

Originally published in the Journal of Applied Psychology in March 2017, Floyd’s merger research publication was nominated for the Best Paper Award at the 2018 Academy of Management Annual Meeting. The paper shares results from studying how employees’ reactions to the merger of two large American companies impacted their attachment to the company over the subsequent year.

Floyd and fellow researchers found that individual professional concerns on topics such as job security and job role impacted the employees’ attachment to the new organization. They also found that if top-level management intend to retain valuable employees, they must go beyond providing companywide videos and announcements to communicate the merger’s significance.

Floyd and her peer authors also recommend that post-merger activities should include individualized sessions for employees to resolve their own personal concerns.

“We found that employees need personal discussions with their immediate supervisors in order to be reassured about their role and responsibilities in the newly created company,” she said. Without that reassurance, employees are more likely to leave.

According the website, a part of Thrive Global’s mission is to help companies and individuals mitigate burnout and enhance well-being with science-based information. Floyd’s article can be found by visiting http://bit.ly/2Dy7m94.

At UM, Floyd’s research interests involve how psychological processes operate within social networks in business and environmental governance contexts, social influence and the effects of organizational identification and attachment. Prior to joining academia, she worked in retail merchandising for Gap and PetSmart.
Contact: Theresa Floyd, UM assistant professor of business management and marketing, 406-243-5808, theresa.floyd@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The community is invited to a weekend of dancing and fun in an old-fashioned logging town during the University of Montana’s 102nd Foresters’ Ball from 7 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1-2, in the Schreiber Gymnasium.

The Foresters’ Ball is an annual dance with live music that raises money for student scholarships. UM students spend a week transforming the
gym into a turn-of-the-century logging town with a saloon, barbershop, chow hall, general store, jail, chapel, museum and slide. This year’s theme, “Saw Bands and Wild Lands,” was selected by Chief Push Emily Onderbeke, a senior wildlife biology major from Granite Falls, Washington.

The Ball also will feature performances by local Missoula band Cash for Junkers and a beer garden. Participants must enter the Ball by 10 p.m., when the doors will close.

Tickets are available for purchase at GrizTix, in person in the University Center the week of Jan. 28 and at the door. Student discount tickets are available.

The Foresters’ Ball also offers a weekend-long celebration with fun opportunities for the entire community to learn more about forestry and conservation. Events include:

- **W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation Open House** – 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, Forestry Building. The open house is an opportunity for alumni and friends to mix and mingle with faculty and current students. Faculty members and graduate students will display their research.

- **Community Forestry Day** – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, Schreiber Gym. Hosted by the Forestry Scholarship Association in conjunction with the Foresters’ Ball, Community Forestry Day is a free event designed for children and families and is a great opportunity to see the Foresters’ Ball during daylight hours. Organizations from UM and the local community will have interactive booths full of games, prizes and more.

- **Foresters’ Ball Auction Dinner** – 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, Schreiber Gym. Hosted by the Forestry Scholarship Association, this fundraiser dinner includes a full plate of Montana BBQ and a silent auction. Tickets are $25, and advanced purchase is required by Tuesday, Jan. 29, at https://forestersball.brownpapertickets.com/.

For more information, visit the Foresters’ Ball website at http://www.forestersball.com/.

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**Contact:** Maggie Noriega, Foresters’ Ball publicity officer, forestersball@gmail.com; Kasey Rahn, communications specialist, UM W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6693, kasey.rahn@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Department of Physics and Astronomy invites the public to its spring semester planetarium shows in the Payne Family Native American Center Star Gazing Room this month through May.

The 50-minute shows will be offered at 6 and 7:30 p.m. on the following Fridays: Jan. 25; Feb. 8 and 22; March 8 and 22; April 5 and 19; and May 3.

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/PublicShows.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.

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**Contact:** Mark Reiser, outreach coordinator, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy, 406-243-2074, mark.reiser@umontana.edu; Marie Snyder, administrative associate, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy, 406-243-2073, marie.snyder@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana Dance Program invites students from regional high schools and two-year colleges to join in two days of dance during its eighth annual UM Dance Days event.

UM Dance Days runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, and from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, in the UM Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center. Friday night also will feature a concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. Participants must register by Tuesday, Jan. 29. To view a complete schedule and
to register for UM Dance Days, visit http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/Dance/UMDanceDays.php.

During the event, visiting students take master classes in five dance genres, participate in a reception with UM dance majors and faculty, and attend the school’s American College Dance Association Benefit Concert.

The Benefit Concert, an adjudicated concert coinciding with UM Dance Days, presents choreography by new and established dance artists. The student-run concert also supports the program’s annual attendance at the ACDA Northwest Regional Conference. This year’s conference will be held in March at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Dancers also will tour the extensive facilities at UM’s School of Theatre & Dance to learn about opportunities in the program and school. The UM Dance Program will hold auditions for admission into its program, and students may submit applications for scholarships.

According to Associate Professor of Dance Heidi Jones Eggert, the event is about more than recruiting.

“UM Dance Days is an opportunity to celebrate dance,” Eggert said. “Enthusiastic young artists from around the region gather to peek into their viable future as dancers in college and beyond.”

Contact: Heidi Jones Eggert, associate professor, UM School of Theatre & Dance, 406-243-4481, heidi.eggert@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Journalism will host award-winning journalist and author Jean Guerrero for a lecture at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4, in Law Building Room 101.

Guerrero’s Emmy-winning reporting focuses on the U.S.-Mexican border, currently at the center of the far-reaching policy dispute in Washington, D.C., over whether to build the wall proposed by President Donald
Guerrero’s knowledge of border issues runs deep. She is currently the “Fronteras” border issues reporter for public broadcasting station KPBS in San Diego, and her series “America’s Wall” won two Emmys in 2018. The multimedia investigation traces the history of the existing border walls and fences, which Trump has promised to expand dramatically.

Her stories document the growth of border barriers under both Democratic and Republican administrations, leading to the 2018-19 federal government shutdown over Trump’s demand for additional wall funding. Her stories also document the impact of the border on the lives of local residents, from anti-immigration vigilantes to rescuers who offer to help those making the dangerous crossing.

Guerrero’s own personal story has been shaped by the border, and she has been recognized with the prestigious PEN/FUSION Emerging Writers Prize for her new memoir, “Crux: A Cross-Border Memoir.” In it, she explores her own family history as it is shaped by the tensions between her Mexican-American father and her mother, who grew up in Puerto Rico and became a physician in San Diego. Guerrero’s father wrestled with depression and drug abuse for years, tearing the family apart and motivating her to search for her family’s mystical roots south of the border. The memoir reflects on the ease with which the author crosses into her father’s homeland and on the tumultuous historical relationship between the two countries.

“This visit comes at a critical time in border history,” said former UM School of Journalism Dean Larry Abramson, who will introduce Guerrero. “Jean’s visit is a chance for our students to get beyond the headlines of the immigrant caravans and the wall and think about how to cover this issue as thoughtfully as possible.”

The lecture is open to the public, and Guerrero also will speak with journalism students in a UM classroom.

For more information call Abramson at 202-590-8536 or email larry.abramson@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Larry Abramson, UM special adviser to the provost, 202-590-8536, larry.abramson@mso.umt.edu.
Award-Winning Journalist to Speak at UM About Reporting on the Border - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana will begin its 44th annual Economic Outlook Seminar series in Helena on Tuesday, Jan. 29, Great Falls on Wednesday, Jan. 30, and Missoula on Friday, Feb. 1.

This half-day seminar highlights the latest economic trends for local economies and the state of Montana.

“The question for Montana is not whether or not we will get another recession. It is what kind of recession it will be,” said Patrick Barkey, BBER director.

Every year, industry experts give their outlook for Montana's important sectors, including health care, forestry, energy, tourism, real estate and agriculture. And for the first time, the seminar will include the outlook for high-tech and start-up industries.

The theme of this year's seminar tour is “Facing the Challenge of Affordable Housing.”
“Housing has always been a policy priority,” Barkey said. “That’s why we’re taking on what is probably one of the hardest issues to solve.”

Housing prices have been rising faster than household incomes in almost every urban area of Montana – in some places, almost twice as fast. BBER economists will discuss the future of housing markets and attendees can pose questions to a panel of speakers from their local communities.

Registration costs $90. Registration for Montana University System faculty, staff and students is $25. Attendees will receive a copy of the 2019 Montana Economic Report, a book of the PowerPoint presentations, lunch and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER’s award-winning magazine. Continuing education credits are available and groups of five or more can receive a discount.

The seminars run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The full schedule is:

- Tuesday, Jan. 29, Great Northern Hotel, Helena
- Wednesday, Jan. 30, Hilton Garden Inn, Great Falls
- Friday, Feb. 1, Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula
- Tuesday, Feb. 5, Doubletree Hotel, Billings
- Wednesday, Feb. 6, The Commons, Bozeman and live webcast
- Thursday, Feb. 7, NorthWestern Energy General Office, Butte
- Tuesday, Feb. 12, Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell
- Tuesday, March 12, USDA Agricultural Research Services, Sidney
- Wednesday, March 13, Sleep Inn & Suites, Miles City
- Thursday, March 14, Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, Big Sky

For more information or to register, visit [http://www.economicoutlookseminar.com](http://www.economicoutlookseminar.com) or call 406-243-5113.

Established in 1948, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research is the main research unit of the University of Montana’s College of Business. BBER researchers engage in a wide range of applied research projects that address different aspects of the state economy, including survey research, economic analysis, health care research, forecasting, wood products research and energy research. For more information visit [http://bber.umt.edu](http://bber.umt.edu) or call 406-243-5113.

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**Contact:** Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu.
FLATHEAD LAKE – Each year, scientists estimate up to 4 million tons of plastic debris are transported from rivers to oceans all across the globe. It was long thought that most microplastics found in river systems would eventually make their way into the oceans. However, new research by scientists at the University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station has determined that more microplastics are retained in river systems than previously thought, and river export to the oceans might be
overestimated.

The research was conducted by visiting FLBS researcher Xiong Xiong from the Institute of Hydrobiology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a small team of Chinese collaborators and FLBS director Jim Elser. It focused on the occurrence and fate of microplastic debris in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River in China.

China is considered one of the largest contributors of plastic waste due to its high population density and extensive use and incomplete management of plastic materials. The Yangtze River, one of the largest rivers in the world, is believed to be the largest plastic-export river to the ocean in all existing scientific modeling studies.

Collecting samples from 15 sites along a 1,700-kilometer stretch of the Yangtze, the researchers found that not all microplastics generated along the river appear to be transferred to the sea. Rather, it appears that microplastic densities in the Yangtze are impacted by the river’s proximity to large cities, lakes and man-made structures such as dams. Additionally, a portion of microplastics are likely deposited in sediments along the bottom and shoreline of the river.

The results, which run counter to current estimates regarding river export of microplastics, are significant. They indicate that river systems are at great risk for microplastic pollution, and that efforts should focus more on monitoring river contributions to the ocean and their potential impacts to the rivers themselves. They also indicate that previous estimates of microplastic export from the Yangtze River may be overestimated.

Currently, Xiong is bringing that kind of focus to western Montana, where he’s performing a similar research project to assess microplastic concentrations in the Flathead Lake watershed. His Flathead research began in the summer of 2018, and he hopes to release his findings later this spring.

Results from the Yangtze River study, meanwhile, were recently published in the scientific journal Science of the Total Environment. The Yangtze study was supported by the Natural Science Foundation of China, State Key Laboratory of Freshwater Ecology and Biotechnology, and Young Researcher Support Funding of the Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

For more information about Xiong’s microplastics research, visit the Flathead Lake Biological Station website at https://flbs.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Tom Bansak, assistant director, Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-872-4503, tom.bansak@flbs.umt.edu; Ian Withrow, media/information specialist, FLBS, 406-872-4544, ian.withrow@flbs.umt.edu.
UM Researchers Find Rivers Retain More Plastic Debris Than Previously Thought - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA –

Handcrafted snowshoes, wooden skis and handmade sleeping bags may be relics of our recreational past. Still, our aged outdoor gear plays an important role in the technological advancement and culture of those who live and play in the mountains, according to University of Montana
students.

The public is invited to attend an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, for a new exhibit at the Missoula Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. The exhibit, “Outdoor Gear Stories from the Treasure State: 75 Years of Outdoor Recreation History,” features stories, interviews and photographs about the outdoor gear that has accompanied Montana recreationalists for more than seven decades. Free and open to the public, the exhibit will be displayed through April 21.

“Relics of the past 50 to 75 years of outdoor recreation history are the precursors to the things we wear on an everyday basis now,” said Dr. Rachel Gross, a postdoctoral Teaching, Research and Mentoring Fellow in UM’s Davidson Honors College. “I think this exhibit will be valuable for people interested in the evolution of technology, as well as the overall meaning western people attach to gear.”

Gross added that the exhibit provides insight into gear that has kept outdoor enthusiasts warmer, lighter, drier and safer across varying landscapes, activities and conditions.

Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the University’s Natural Resource Science and Management 291 and History 391 classes, in addition to student researchers in the DHC, spent a year organizing the exhibit. They collected donated equipment from the public used for everything from hunting to mountain climbing. Students also conducted oral history interviews “for greater perspective into the outdoor culture revered by Missoula and the UM community,” said Victor Yvellez, a UM student and exhibit organizer.

Gear stories include a Chouinard ice axe bought directly from Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard; lightweight custom boots designed by Royal Robbins leather, which are no longer manufactured; and handmade down vests and sleeping bags from the late 1960s, made from kits not sold since the 1970s.

Sally Wright, who donated gear to the exhibit, made down sleeping bags in the 1960s for her family, which she said was an affordable alternative at the time.
“Some of the nights were cold, and it was nice to have a down sleeping bag,” Wright said. “Sleeping bags were always about $200 dollars even in the late 1960s, and that was a lot of money.”

For decades, students and faculty seeking access to outdoor recreation during their tenure at UM has been part of the allure of the University, according to event organizers. Gross said that particular aspect of UM is important to highlight.

“Looking at material objects is a really good way to get at much bigger stories about people’s relationships to their community, to the region and their ideas about consumer culture,” she said.

Gross and UM students will share stories from the exhibit at the Montana Historical Society in Helena on Saturday, Feb. 9. The exhibit is supported by the Wilderness Institute, the Governor’s Office of Outdoor Recreation, UM’s Davidson Honors College, the DeMers-Price History Fund, the UM Department of History, the Missoula Public Library and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

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**Contact:** Dr. Rachel Gross, postdoctoral Teaching, Research and Mentoring Fellow, UM Davidson Honors College, 406-243-2541.
Students Encouraged to Submit Ideas for $50,000 Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge

January 17, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana wants to hear from aspiring student entrepreneurs interested in competing in the 2019 John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge. In its 30th year, the competition, which is open to all students enrolled in higher education in Montana, awards more than $50,000 to students who pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges.

Applications are due Friday, Feb. 8, and can be found on the John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge website. The event committee will select 12 teams to compete in the competition, which will take place Friday, March 8, on the UM campus.

“We encourage students who are even considering applying to reach out early so we can pair them with a coach who can help them refine their ideas and improve their chances of winning,” said Paul Gladen, director of the Blackstone LaunchPad at UM, which co-hosts the event with the College of Business.
Gladen explained that while the prize money attracts contenders, the coaching that participants receive throughout the competition can be invaluable. The teams pitch their business ideas to more than 50 judges who provide feedback and coaching. Four finalists are selected during the day to compete for the top prizes — including the $15,000 first-place cash prize — at the evening’s public event. Tickets for the public event are $15 each and available for purchase on the JRBSC website. Students can attend for free.

Businesses, organizations and individuals committed to the future of entrepreneurship in Montana provide all of the prize money for the event and participate as judges. Competitors typically pitch a vast array of venture ideas, from tiny home communities to cricket farms for edible protein. Finalists represent multiple Montana higher education institutions and pursue a range of majors, from business, psychology and journalism to chemistry and natural resource conservation.

“We were excited to see a significant increase of statewide interest in last year’s competition,” Gladen said. “As the only statewide student entrepreneurship competition, we play an important role in increasing awareness among students that entrepreneurship is a viable career path.”

Now in its third decade, the list of notable previous JRBSC finalists includes recognizable Montana business names, such as Chilton Skis, Five on Black Brazilian Grill, Market on Front and Big Sky Brewing.

“This event isn’t just about seeing incredible work and effort coming out of students at the University, but gives us an insight into the future business we get to look forward to in our community,” said Five on Black founder Tom Snyder, who participates as a judge and sponsor. “The event is like getting to browse Kickstarter but on a hyper-local scale and in real life.”

If you have questions about the John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge, call Gladen at 406-243-5723 or email paul.gladen@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Paul Gladen, director, Blackstone LaunchPad at UM, 406-243-5723, paul.gladen@umontana.edu.
Students Encouraged to Submit Ideas for $50,000 Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA — What is it like on other planets? Does life exist beyond Earth? What’s happening on the sun and how does it affect us? How is Earth changing? The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area’s newest exhibition, “Sun, Earth, Universe,” will open on Wednesday, Jan. 16, to allow visitors explore our planet, the solar system and the universe, as well as the big questions NASA is trying to answer about each.
“Sun, Earth, Universe” will connect visitors with current NASA research and launch them on a journey to explore the universe through fun, hands-on exhibits for visitors of all ages. Visitors can follow the design-build-test cycle of engineering and build a model spacecraft; spin a tumbler of 10,000 beads, representing all of the stars we can see from Earth, to search for the unique one that symbolizes our sun; and reveal hidden images using the same tools NASA scientists employ to explore the otherwise invisible forces and energy of the universe.

The exhibition also includes a “Your Mission to Space” board game and a play table when younger visitors can pilot rovers across the Mars landscape. These experiences introduce visitors to ongoing NASA research in the fields of heliophysics, Earth science, planetary science and astrophysics and encourage them to imagine what the future of Earth and space science might hold.

“At spectrUM, we’re focused on inspiring children’s curiosity about science, higher education and careers,” said Jessie Herbert-Meny, spectrUM’s associate director. “We’re excited for this exhibition to spark our visitors’ curiosity about space science and more broadly to ignite their passion for learning and exploring.”

“This exhibition is a great resource for families to come and learn about the science behind what they see in the night sky or through a telescope,” said Nicholos Wethington, president of the Western Montana Astronomical Association and spectrUM making and tinkering program manager.

The exhibition was developed in collaboration with NASA, Arizona State University, the National Informal STEM Education Network and the Science Museum of Minnesota as part of a nationwide effort to engage audiences in Earth and space science.

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

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

SpectrUM, located at 812 Toole Ave. in Missoula, is open from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission costs $3.50 for people ages 4 and over. Families who receive EBT benefits are eligible for free spectrUM memberships.

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

Contact: Jessie Herbert-Meny, associate director, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
SpectrUM’s ‘Sun, Earth, Universe’ Exhibition to Open Jan. 16 - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – “Perma Red” by author Debra Magpie Earling has been voted the top book beloved by Montanans through “The Great Montana Read” program, headed by MontanaPBS and Montana Public Radio. Norman Maclean’s “A River Runs Through It” finished in second place, while “This House of Sky” by Ivan Doig received enough votes for third place.

More than 2,500 votes were cast on the MontanaPBS website. Voting ended at the end of 2018.

As part of the nationwide search for America’s best-loved novel through the PBS-sponsored “Great American Read,” a panel of seven Montana literary experts chose 20 books for voters to consider for the Great Montana Read.

“The Great Montana Read’ is an exciting collaboration, encouraging conversation and celebration around the Treasure State’s rich literary tradition,” said Sarah Aronson, host of Montana Public Radio’s “The Write Question.” Aronson wrote and hosted video segments featuring each nominated book.
Partners for ‘The Great Montana Read’ include the Montana Library Association, Humanities Montana, the University of Montana, Mansfield Library, the UM Creative Writing Department, MontanaPBS and Montana Public Radio.

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

Montana Public Radio is a public service of UM and broadcasts on 89.1 Missoula (KUFM); 91.5 Missoula city (K218AI); 91.9 Hamilton (KUFN); 89.5 Polson (KPJH); 90.1 Kalispell, Whitefish, North Valley (KUKL); 90.5 Libby (KUFL); 91.7 Kalispell, city (K219BN); 101.3 Swan Lake (K267BJ); 91.3 Butte (KAPC); 91.7 Helena (KUHM); 91.7 Dillon (K219DN); 89.9 Great Falls (KGPR); and 98.3 White Sulphur Springs (K252AD). Learn more at http://www.mtpr.org.

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Contact: Ray Ekness, director, UM Broadcast Media Center, 406-243-4154, ray.ekness@umontana.edu.
UM Professor Co-Authors Report on the Use of Biotechnology in Forests

January 15, 2019

MISSOULA – University of Montana Professor Diana Six is one of 12 authors of a new report that addresses the potential for biotechnology to provide solutions for protecting forest trees from insect and pathogen outbreaks, which are increasing because of climate change and expanded global trade.

The report, titled “Forest Health and Biotechnology: Possibilities and Considerations,” was released Jan. 8 by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

A range of strategies can be used to respond to forest health threats, including invasive species prevention strategies, site management practices, biological control agents, natural genetic resistance or biotechnological modifications.
used to confer resistance to a species.

Biotechnology has the potential to help mitigate threats by introducing pest-resistant traits, the report says, but research is needed to help meet challenges presented by this approach. The report identifies the ecological, economic and social implications of deploying biotechnology in forests and also develops a research agenda to address knowledge gaps about the application of the technology.

More information about the report can be found in the official NASEM press release.

Six is a professor of forest entomology and pathology in UM's W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. Her primary research focuses on the evolution and maintenance of symbioses, particularly among bark beetles, ambrosia beetles and fungi. She also conducts research on various aspects of bark beetle ecology and management, including investigations into how bark beetles may affect the ability of forests to adapt to climate change.

Contact: Diana Six, professor of forest entomology and pathology, UM W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, diana.six@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana Professor Bill Borrie recently was selected as a Fellow by The Academy of Leisure Sciences.

Founded in 1980, TALS is a leading professional organization for scholars who study recreation, parks, tourism, outdoor adventure, health and sport. The distinction honors outstanding scholars who are renowned in their respective fields.

“It’s a real honor,” Borrie said. “It’s a mark of where you’ve gotten as a scholar. These are the giants in our field and the folks who steer the direction of our field. I’m honored to be among them. It’s also a validation for the University of Montana that our program ranks among the best.”

New Fellows are nominated by current TALS Fellows and voted in
by a two-thirds majority. Nominees must show direct engagement in the field, possess at least a decadelong track record of teaching and scientific publications, hold leadership positions in professional organizations and demonstrate excellence in teaching.

Borrie, a professor of park and recreation management in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, has taught at UM since 1995. He describes leisure sciences as the place where recreation meets the human dimensions of natural resources.

Originally from Melbourne, Australia, Borrie earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in forestry from the University of Melbourne and a doctoral degree from Virginia Tech. He specializes in wilderness and protected area management.

Borrie has taught and conducted research worldwide – from Yellowstone National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex to Alaska, Germany and Australia. He said he is intrigued about the role wilderness plays in American society, both in terms of recreation and in the ideological ways wilderness is connected to U.S. leadership and identity.

His recent work includes studying wilderness as a sanctuary in a modern world – as a place to unplug and escape the pressures and expectations of society. Other current work includes quantifying different values people have for their public lands.

“This is a huge honor for Bill and one that is exceptionally well-deserved," said Tom DeLuca, the forestry college dean. “Bill follows in the footsteps of some of the very best in the field.”

Borrie was nominated as a TALS Fellow by Daniel Dustin of the University of Utah, whom Borrie calls one of his heroes. Additional TALS Fellows include UM Provost Emeritus Perry Brown; Alan Watson, a U.S. Forest Service research social scientist at the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute located on the UM campus; and Dan Williams, a social scientist with the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station and a UM faculty affiliate.
Borrie Elected as Fellow by the Academy of Leisure Sciences - UM News - University Of Montana

Borrie will be inducted as a TALS Fellow during a ceremony in February held in conjunction with the TALS Research and Teaching Conference in Greenville, South Carolina.

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Contact: Bill Borrie, UM professor of park and recreation management, 406-243-5521, bill.borrie@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Montana Campus Compact, the state’s 18-campus higher education network, has announced its inaugural George M. Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarship winners.

The award recognizes students at MTCC affiliate campuses who have volunteered significant time, energy and resources – while
pursuing a degree or certificate – to projects that make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Half of the funds for each scholarship were donated in memory of George M. Dennison by Jane Dennison and sons, Rick and Robert Dennison, and their families. As co-founder of MTCC, George Dennison was a tireless champion of service. The other half of each scholarship is matched by the winners’ institutions.

A highly competitive group of 36 students applied for the scholarship in the fall, each accomplishing exemplary service and making significant positive change in their institutions, communities and the world.

The scholarship winners are:

- Grace Anderson, a senior from Billings studying architecture at Montana State University. For the past three years, Anderson has worked with fundraising, programming and campus outreach about substance misuse and abuse. Now the chair of MSU’s Center for Recovering Students, she has served two years on the Gallatin County DUI Task Force, a county commissioner-appointed board focusing on the education and prevention of driving under the influence.

- Durand T. Bear Medicine, a senior from Browning studying community leadership at MSU-Northern. Bear Medicine provides guidance and leadership to youth. As a Pikuni Legacy Dancer and singer of different styles of Blackfeet song, he exposes local and off-reservation youth to cultural diversity and practices. For youth experiencing issues with substance use or disorders, he connects them to resources available in the community. He also is a leader of the Grammy-nominated drum group Young Grey Horse, a family group.

- Kaeleigh Cain, a freshman from Poplar studying at Fort Peck Community College. Cain has supported blood and clothing drives in her community, among other community engagement projects on her reservation. She plans to use her education to serve her reservation through the field of medicine – especially in the areas of alcohol and drug abuse prevention and teen pregnancy prevention.
Heidi Hohmann, a junior from Spokane studying health science/public health at Carroll College. Hohmann has volunteered the past three years as a health educator for the annual Special Olympics Montana Health Clinic and for five years with the Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Service. She also volunteers weekly at Bryant Elementary in the Sixth Ward in Helena, helping build resiliency in children who have experienced the toxicity of stress through adverse childhood experiences. An Asian-American immigrant, she will become the first in her family to graduate from a four-year college. She plans to work in health care internationally through the Peace Corps.

Hannah Catherine Johnson, a sophomore from Clancy pursuing an associate of science with a double major in public health and biochemistry at Helena College. Johnson’s many volunteer activities include working on initiatives through Montana Associated Students and serving on its diversity committee as an Associated Students of Helena College student representative, as an orientation leader, vice president of the TRiO Club, secretary of the chemistry club and volunteer teacher for the Creative Arts Center.

Shayla McGregor, a senior from Helena studying elementary education at UM-Western. McGregor’s volunteer efforts include time in Peers Advocating Towards Health, an advocacy group that aids students in making healthy and informed choices, such as in the implemented program titled “Sex in the Dark,” focused on sexuality and sexual health topics. She also has been instrumental in organizing events through her roles as a resident assistant, a student senator and a mentor in the TRiO program.

Sophie Moon, a senior from Missoula studying political science and environmental studies at UM. Moon has volunteered with the Montana Public Interest Research Group for all four years of college, helping to increase voter turnout by registering thousands of students to vote. She has served as the vice chair and the chair of MontPIRG’s board of directors. She also has volunteered with Garden City Harvest for three years, and this past summer she worked as an intern for U.S. Sen. Jon Tester.

Brooklyn Olson, a freshman from Ronan studying political science, pre-law and philosophy at UM. Olson is a mentor through Make-A-Wish Foundation with a multiyear history of volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Rebecca Stein Phipps, a second-year student from Anchorage, Alaska, studying graphic and web design with certificates in sales and marketing and accounting at Miles Community College. Phipps is a highly respected member of her community, known for her willingness to help out wherever she can. After several years as a volunteer with Montana Warriors on the Water, Phipps recently was elected to its board of directors. She also is a volunteer with Walleyes Unlimited of Montana-Jordan Chapter and previously with the Garfield County Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

Maria Azucena “Susie” Rodriguez, a sophomore from Manhattan studying nursing at Miles Community College. As a volunteer for Montana Immigrant Justice Alliance, Rodriguez donates her time to help bring security, hope, peace and happiness to immigrant children and families. She also teaches medical Spanish to health providers, medical technicians and nurses at her local hospital.

For more information about MTCC and programs and initiatives, visit http://mtcompact.org/.

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Civic Engagement Scholarships Awarded to 10 Montana College Students - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Kathy Peters, Montana Campus Compact program coordinator, 406-243-5135, peters@mtcompact.org.
‘Bug Bytes’ Radio Program and Podcast Takes Flight

January 11, 2019

MISSOULA – Montana Public Radio and the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium have hatched a new bug-themed radio program and podcast.

The first of 20 episodes of “Bug Bytes” premiered Jan. 7. The new program airs Mondays at 4:56 p.m. between the popular children’s program “The Pea Green Boat” and NPR’s “All Things Considered.” New episodes will air each Monday for the next 19 weeks.

“We’re thrilled to find another outlet for listeners to learn about the incredible world of insects,” said Jen Marangelo, the executive director at the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium.

The stories were written and presented by Glenn and Jen Marangelo. The pair worked closely with MTPR’s Autumn Barnes who recorded and edited the programs. Funding for the segments was provided by the Greater Montana Foundation.

“Montana Public Radio is happy to work with another local entity like the Butterfly House,” MTPR program director
Michael Marsolek said.

Listeners can tune in to MTPR or listen on-line at http://www.mtpr.org/listen. The episodes also will be archived on the Montana Public Radio website.

Montana Public Radio is a public service of UM and broadcasts on 89.1 Missoula (KUFM); 91.5 Missoula city (K218AI); 91.9 Hamilton (KUFN); 89.5 Polson (KPJH); 90.1 Kalispell, Whitefish, North Valley (KUKL); 90.5 Libby (KUFL); 91.7 Kalispell, city (K219BN); 101.3 Swan Lake (K267BJ); 91.3 Butte (KAPC); 91.7 Helena (KUHM); 91.7 Dillon (K219DN); 89.9 Great Falls (KGPR); and 98.3 White Sulphur Springs (K252AD).


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**Contact:** Glenn Marangelo, development and community relations director, Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium, 406-317-1211, glenn@missoulabutterflyhouse.org; Michael Marsolek, Montana Public Radio program director, 406-243-4931, michael.marsolek@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – In addition to serving as the University of Montana’s 19th president, Seth Bodnar now also holds the title of major in the Montana Army National Guard.

Bodnar was sworn into the Montana Army National Guard by Maj. Gen. Matthew Quinn at Fort Harrison near Helena on Jan. 8.

Bodnar is a current member in the United States Army Reserves and is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Quinn and Bodnar met in 2018 and discussed Bodnar joining the Montana National Guard.

"Over the course of several meetings, we discussed the possibility of him transferring to the Montana National Guard,"
UM President Seth Bodnar Sworn Into Montana National Guard - UM News - University Of Montana

said Quinn. “Today I am proud to announce the Montana Guard’s newest officer, Maj. Seth Bodnar.”

Montana has one of the highest per-capita veteran populations in the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Bodnar said he is proud to join the state’s long history of service in the nation’s military.

“Since I left active duty in the U.S. Army, I've been a member of the U.S. Army Reserve, and I'm honored today to continue my service by transferring into the Montana National Guard and joining the long line of Montanans who have so bravely and selflessly served both our great state and this nation,” Bodnar said.

Bodnar has led a well-decorated military career. He has served in the 101st Airborne Division and the U.S. Army’s First Special Forces Group. He has also instructed at West Point and taught as an assistant professor in the school’s Department of Social Sciences.

In 2016, the national Military Friendly organization named UM to its list of Military Friendly Schools, noting UM’s efforts to support student veterans and their families through a number of academic and financial services.

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Get Involved
Early Estimates Show Nonresident Visitor Spending Up, Visitor Numbers Down in 2018

January 10, 2019

MISSOULA – Approximately 12.2 million nonresidents visited Montana in 2018 and spent nearly $3.7 billion in the Treasure State, according to preliminary estimates by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana.

The number of travelers visiting the state in 2018 appears to have decreased slightly, down 2 percent from 2017. Despite the slightly lower number of individual travelers, those who did travel to the state spent more, on average, per day. The net result is around 10 percent increase in total spending over 2017.

Visitor spending during 2018 supported an estimated 42,700 jobs directly and over 58,000 jobs in total. Associated with those jobs is over $1.1 billion of labor income directly supported by nonresident spending. An additional $622 million of labor income is indirectly supported by what nonresidents spend while traveling in the state. Nonresidents...
Early Estimates Show Nonresident Visitor Spending Up, Visitor Numbers Down in 2018 - UM News - University Of Montana

contributed more than $227 million in state and local taxes in 2018.

These figures will be updated this spring, with the most recent fourth quarter data from 2018 replacing the 2017 fourth quarter data used in these early estimates. This preliminary report can be found at http://itrr.umt.edu/files/2018-nonres-estimates-prelim.pdf. All information and reports published by ITRR are available online at http://www.itrr.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Kara Grau, assistant director of economic analysis, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, kara.grau@umontana.edu, 406-243-5107; Jeremy Sage, associate director, ITRR, 406-243-5552, jeremy.sage@umontana.edu; Norma Nickerson, director, ITRR, 406-243-2328, norma.nickerson@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana will present its 2019 Wilderness Issues Lecture Series titled “Wild Hope: Fearless Risk Takers, Art Makers and Storytellers on the Wilderness and Conservation Front Lines.”

Lectures will be held Tuesdays in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. The events are free and open to the public. UM students may earn one credit by registering for NRSM 371.

The lecture series schedule is:

- **Jan. 22**: Connie Myers, founding director of the interagency Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, will present “Guardians of Freedom.”
- **Jan. 29**: Martin Nie, professor, Natural Resource Policy; director, Bolle Center for People and Forests; and undergraduate program director, Resource Conservation; will present “Public Lands: A Love Story.”
- **Feb. 5**: MaryAnn Bonjorni, professor, UM School of Art, will present “Finding the Language of Place.”
- **Feb. 12**: Julie Cajune, writer, producer and director of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' Education
Wilderness Institute at UM Presents ‘Wild Hope’ Lecture Series - UM News - University Of Montana

Department, will present "We are Obligate Mutualists: The Stories of Soul Mates."

- **Feb. 19**: Greg Rickel, bishop, Diocese of Olympia, Seattle, will present “Faith on the Front Line.”
- **Feb. 26**: Becca Skinner, adventure and conservation photographer, will present “Storytelling Through the Lens: How Photography Influences Conservation Efforts.”
- **March 5**: Kascie Herron, American Rivers-Northern Rockies, will present “Reading the Room: Different Methods to Effectively Engage Supporters of Environmental Advocacy.”

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**Contact**: Joanna Campbell, director, UM Wilderness Institute, 406-243-6956, joanna.campbell@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Exciting topics and speakers are planned for the sixth annual Global Public Health Lecture Series this semester at the University of Montana. Free and open to the public, the series tackles some of the most pressing global health issues facing the world today.

The series launches at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, in Gallagher Business Building Room 123. Peter Koehn, a political science professor and director of UM’s Global Health Program, will present “Multitudes Are Crossing Borders: Arising Challenges for Global Health and Future Public Health Professionals.”

Drawing on his new book, “Transnational Mobility and Global Health: Traversing Borders and Boundaries,” Koehn will illustrate the pivotal ways that mobility increasingly is connected to global health. He also will explore arising challenges and possibilities for tomorrow’s public health professionals.

Fourteen lectures are planned through April. All will be held Wednesdays in Gallagher 123. A full schedule is online at http://bit.ly/2RxFkT1.

Another highlight this semester will be March 13 lecture by Lisa Parks, a 2018 MacArthur Fellow and UM graduate who works at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She studies the global reach of information technology
infrastructure and the cultural, political and humanitarian implications of that flow of information. Her lecture is titled "How Information Technologies Impact Quality of Life in Africa: Rethinking Dominant Assumptions."

Other topics will include health education experiences with the Peace Corps, health care observations in rural Uganda, connections between environmental and human health in Bornia, and much more.

The series is hosted by UM’s Global Public Health minor and the Institute of Health and Humanities. One academic credit is available to UM students by enrolling in PSCI 191. The lectures also will be recorded and made available via Missoula Community Access Television using a grant donated by MCAT.

For additional information visit [http://hs.umt.edu/globalpublichealth](http://hs.umt.edu/globalpublichealth), call program coordinator Kelly Yarns at 406-270-0869 or email kelly.yarns@mso.umt.edu. Koehn is available at 406-243-5294 or by emailing peter.koehn@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Kelly Yarns, UM Global Public Health program coordinator, 406-270-0869, kelly.yarns@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Tropical forests are one of the largest natural sources of the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide (N2O), and a tiny insect may play a big role in how those emissions are spread out across the
In a new study published this month in the Proceedings of the Royal Society, University of Montana researchers linked leafcutter ants to some of the largest natural N₂O hotspots ever recorded in tropical forests.

“Leafcutters ants are very common and charismatic insects throughout the Americas,” said Fiona Soper, a faculty affiliate in UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation and the study’s lead author. “You can’t walk through a tropical forest without seeing them stripping leaves, marching in long lines and excavating nests. Our research in Costa Rica shows a previously unsuspected role for these ants in tropical forests: creating emission hotspots for the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide.”

The researchers – including UM Professor Cory Cleveland and graduate student Alanna Shaw – surveyed 22 colony refuse dumps of the Atta colombica leafcutter ant in Costa Rica. They found that the refuse piles provided ideal conditions for extremely high rates of N₂O production. In fact, average piles can emit twice as much total N₂O as other areas of rainforest —sometimes generating fluxes comparable to those produced by human-engineered systems like wastewater treatment tanks or dairy cow manure lagoons.

“Ants cut leaves from trees, take them underground and farm fungus that grows on the decomposing leaves, their primary food source,” said Cleveland. “In doing that, they generate waste that must be disposed of. They do this like we do, meticulously moving their trash to something not unlike our landfills. In those landfills, microorganisms break...
down their trash, generating gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, just like ours do."

Soper added that although the greenhouse gas emissions from the ant colonies are high, creating conditions not commonly seen in natural ecosystems, the ants are not a major source of excess greenhouse gases in tropical forests and do not have anything to do with climate change. Instead, the study highlights the ways animals can affect their environment, much like people.

"Leafcutter ant colonies are very organized, putting all their waste into colony dumps, much like our landfills or compost piles," Soper said. "These landfills create ideal conditions for the bacteria that make nitrous oxide, creating point emissions that can rival human-engineered systems such as wastewater treatment plants. While this doesn't mean that ants cause climate change, it does show a new way that sophisticated insect societies can engineer their ecosystems."

Scientists in the Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology Lab, led by Cleveland, have worked in tropical forests throughout Costa Rica and Panama for years. This particular project, though, started completely by accident.

"I was in Costa Rica working on another project to understand patterns of greenhouse gas emissions in forests, and one of our sites was completely destroyed when a leafcutter ant colony moved in," Soper said.

Instead of the abandoning the site, she took a few measurements.

"Lo and behold, the emissions – especially of N₂O, a greenhouse gas – were incredibly high, and so I pursued it further," she said.

"Sometimes cool science happens on accident," Cleveland said. "Nature is just amazing and gets more amazing to me every day. We just have to look for it."

Partner institutions on this research were the University of Nevada, Reno; Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island; and INRA in Dijon, France.
Contact: Fiona Soper, faculty affiliate, fiona.soper@umontana.edu; Cory Cleveland, professor of terrestrial ecosystem ecology, 406-243-6656, cory.cleveland@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Dr. Julie Wolter, a University of Montana professor and chair of the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, recently was named a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association during the national organization’s annual convention in Boston with 18,000 attendees.

The fellowship recognizes Wolter for her years of research in language and literacy, as well as for service to ASHA and the field of speech-language pathology.

ASHA is made up of more than 198,000 members who are speech-language pathologists and audiologists working in settings such as schools, hospitals and universities throughout the United States.

A highlight of the convention was the annual ASHA Awards Ceremony, where select...
individuals are bestowed with the association's highest honors.

"It is deeply humbling and truly an honor to be recognized by my peers and be part of a ceremony where individuals whom I admire are recognized for their efforts and the hours they have dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with spoken and written communication disabilities," Wolter said after the awards ceremony.

Wolter has focused her research career on how children with speech and language challenges – such as those with developmental language disorders – go on to develop improved reading and writing abilities.

She recently received a multimillion dollar National Institutes of Health grant to study the development of reading and writing in children with speech and language challenges. She works with local school districts to implement and develop screening practices to identify children who present language and/or literacy challenges as early as kindergarten.

Wolter is the daughter of Richard and Elaine Wesnick of Billings and graduated from Billings Central High School. She moved back to Montana in 2015 after living out of state for more than 20 years.

She was recruited to help establish and grow UM’s Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, which was not available in the 1990s when Wolter wanted to study to become a speech language pathologist in her home state. She instead earned her master’s degree at Western Washington University and later earned her doctorate at Wichita State University in Kansas. Those degrees are now available through UM’s Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences program, including the newly implemented Ph.D. program that Wolter developed. Prior to joining the faculty at UM, Wolter was on the faculty at Utah State University for 10 years.

"I am committed to this incredibly innovative program in Montana to help train individuals to become speech-language pathologists, regardless of where they live and whether they can move to Missoula," Wolter said.

In the ASHA Fellow nomination letter, which was written by her UM faculty colleagues, students and peers throughout the U.S., Wolter was called "a champion who is committed to ending rural disparities in education and health care, which is reflective of U.S. Department of Education funding that she has secured for students who train
In rural areas through the distance graduate program that is part of her department.

In the nomination letter, a UM graduate student wrote, “I write this from my home in Baker, Montana, 568 miles away. I have never taken an on-campus class from UM, but I assure you, thanks to the leadership, vision and true grit of Dr. Wolter, I will graduate in 2019 as a speech-language pathologist and be able to offer services to the frontier and rural schools of southeastern Montana as a local provider. This would have been impossible only a few short years ago, but thanks to her willingness to pursue the grant funding, I am able to attend class with my classmates and receive an excellent education.”

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**Contact:** Dr. Julie Wolter, professor and chair, UM Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, 406-243-2605, julie.wolter@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s We Are Montana in the Classroom initiative invites community members to become role models for K-12 students through a free training at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at Imagine Nation Brewing, located at 1151 W. Broadway St.

Led by Dr. Amanda Duley, staff scientist at the UM Broader Impacts Group (BIG) and spectrUM Discovery Area, the Role Models Matter Workshop is designed to prepare role models to engage effectively with K-12 students through personal stories, hands-on activities and reflection. Participants will also learn about opportunities to serve as a role model in their community.

Registration for the Role Models Matter Workshop is free and open to everyone. Dinner will be provided. To sign up email Caitlin Ervin at caitlin.ervin@umontana.edu or call 406-728-7836.

We Are Montana in the Classroom engages UM faculty members, graduate students and professionals with Montana K-12 students, with the goal of closing opportunity gaps and inspiring the next generation to pursue higher education and career pathways. We Are Montana in the Classroom role models visit K-12 schools, libraries and
museums, free meal sites and attend community events throughout Missoula, the Bitterroot and the Flathead
Reservation.

“We know from research and from many of our own personal experiences that role models can make powerful
impacts on the lives of children,” Duley said. “The Role Models Matter Workshop gives people from all academic
and career backgrounds the tools to connect with students and get them excited about their futures.”

The Role Models Matter training curriculum was developed by Techbridge, an Oakland-based organization
dedicated to inspiring girls about STEM, with funding from the National Science Foundation.

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

Contact: Amanda Duley, staff scientist, Broader Impacts Group and spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-728-7836,
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7836, caitlin.ervin@umontana.edu.
We Are Montana in the Classroom to Host Free Role Model Workshop - UM News - University Of Montana
Students Make UM Fall Semester Dean’s List

January 04, 2019

MISSOULA – At the University of Montana, 2,520 students made the fall semester 2018 Dean’s List or President’s 4.0 List. To qualify, students must be undergraduates, earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher and receive grades of A or B in at least nine credits. Students who receive any grade of C+ or below or no credit (NC/NCR) in a course are not eligible.

The students on the linked list below made UM’s fall semester 2018 Dean’s List or the President’s 4.0 List. Double asterisks after a name indicate the student earned a 4.0 GPA. A single asterisk indicates a GPA greater than 3.5 but less than 4.0.

This information is grouped by hometowns and is available online at http://bit.ly/2Tly0qC.

All dean's and graduate lists are online here: http://www.umt.edu/urelations/info/deanslist.php.
UM Hires Vice Provost for Student Success

January 03, 2019

MISSOULA – After a national search, the University of Montana has hired Dr. Sarah Swager to become its new vice provost for student success. She will begin her new duties Feb. 1.

This position oversees essential areas in Student Affairs and student success, including the Office for Student Success – with its advising, tutoring and financial education – as well as sectors such as American Indian Student Services, veteran services, UM Dining, UM Housing, Curry Health Center and Campus Recreation, among others.

"We are extremely excited to welcome Dr. Swager to campus," said Jon Harbor, UM executive vice president and provost. "She has a great blend of experience and talents that will enhance our efforts to provide truly transformative experiences for students through an
UM Hires Vice Provost for Student Success - UM News - University Of Montana

integrated approach to student success programs and services. Her past leadership includes significant accomplishments in innovative ways to enhance student success and retention."

A Montana native from Sheridan, Swager brings over 35 years of experience as a student affairs professional, having served as chief student affairs officer at Coker College, Randolph-Macon Woman’s College (now Randolph College) and Central Washington University. She also has held interim leadership assignments at Carlow University and St. Norbert College through the Registry for College and University Presidents, assisting those institutions in framing new strategic and organizational approaches to serving students.

Swager holds an undergraduate degree in studio art from Colby College, a master’s degree in college student personnel from Bowling Green State University and a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Michigan.

Her dissertation research focused on the impact of task and interpersonal elements between faculty and student partners in an undergraduate research program. That research continues to inspire her research and practice in critical ways, including data-informed retention strategies, change management, strategic planning and student success programs.

She was instrumental in working collaboratively with staff and faculty at Central Washington University to create environmental conditions and targeted strategies that significantly helped improve retention at CWU.

“I'm excited to work with UM’s staff and faculty to bring new student success and student retention initiatives to the University of Montana,” Swager said.

In her free time, Swager enjoys spending time in the natural beauty of Montana, is an accomplished knitter and quilter and continues to work as an amateur artist in multimedia and oils.

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Contact: Jon Harbor, UM executive vice president and provost, 406-243-4689, jon.harbor@umontana.edu.
Campus Recreation at UM Offers Free Week, New AquaHIIT Classes

January 02, 2019

From UM News Service

MISSOULA – University of Montana students, employees, affiliates, retirees and eligible adult dependents with Griz Cards are invited to participate in Campus Recreation Free Week from Thursday, Jan. 10, through Friday, Jan. 18.

Free events include group fitness classes, body composition measures, fitness consultations with a personal trainer, an intramural 3-on-3 basketball tournament and women’s climbing night. In addition, Campus Recreation will host social media giveaways.

Free group fitness offerings include the brand-new AquaHIIT class from 7 to 7:45 a.m. Friday, Jan. 11 and Jan. 18, and from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23.

AquaHIIT is an intense 45-minute, full-body workout. It blends on-deck and in-water exercises with both traditional and specialized equipment. Water shoes and goggles are recommended.
The intramural 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 16-17, in the Fitness & Recreation Center basketball courts.

Women's Climbing Night takes place at the climbing wall from 9 to 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16.

Sign up on the online registration portal at https://register.campusrec.umt.edu/ for body composition measurements and fitness consultations.

For more information visit the Campus Recreation website at https://www.umt.edu/crec/Fitness/special-programs.php. Find the current fitness class schedule online, on the Montana Rec mobile app (available in App Store/Google Play) or posted inside the FRC.

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**Contact:** Andi Armstrong, assistant director of operations and marketing, UM Campus Recreation, 406-243-2806, andrea.armstrong@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – When University of Montana students return from their holiday break this month, a bevy of activities will welcome them home to campus.

Griz Winter Welcome will be held Tuesday through Saturday, Jan. 8-12. Activities will range from s’mores around a campfire to movies and a Welcome Back Party.

“It might be cold outside, but we have a lot of fun things planned to get students engaged and excited for spring semester,” Griz Winter Welcome coordinator Melissa Neidigh said.

Spring semester classes start at UM on Thursday, Jan. 10. Scheduled events for Griz Winter Welcome will include:

- **Tuesday, Jan. 8** – S’mores around the Payne Family Native American Center firepit from 8 to 10 p.m. (Festivities will move inside to the Corner Store if the weather is bad.

- **Wednesday, Jan. 9** – UM Speed Networking with Alumni from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the University Center.
Ballroom.

- **Thursday, Jan. 10** – Residence hall floor meetings from 5 to 8 p.m.

- **Thursday, Jan. 10** – A free showing of the movie “Shrek” in the UC Theater from 8 to 10 p.m., complete with complimentary popcorn and soda.

- **Friday, Jan. 11** – A Winter Welcome Back Party held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the UC Atrium. Activities will include screen printing, Big Sky breakout boxes, student performances, a student service fair and free food.

- **Saturday, Jan. 12** – A welcome-back-students Lady Griz basketball at 2 p.m. in Dahlberg Arena. Admission is free for UM students. The Lady Griz will face Northern Colorado in a conference matchup.

For more information visit [https://www.umt.edu/grizwelcome/winter](https://www.umt.edu/grizwelcome/winter). Details also will be available on the UM app.

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**Contact:** Melissa Neidigh, associate director of operations, UM Housing, 406-243-2611, melissa.neidigh@mso.umt.edu; Hailey Michelson, program adviser, UM Student Involvement Network and The Branch Center, 406-243-5776, hailey.michelson@mso.umt.edu.