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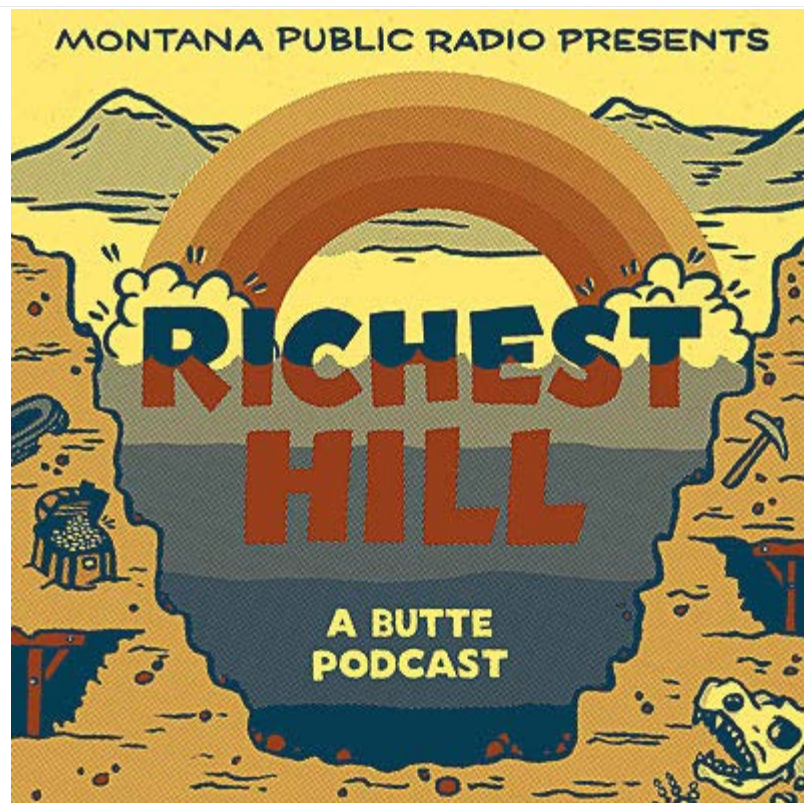
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New Podcast Explores Butte Superfund Site

February 28, 2019

MISSOULA – Montana Public Radio’s new podcast, “Richest Hill,” launches on Tuesday, March 5. It’s a single-season series exploring the past, present and future of one of America’s biggest and most notorious Superfund sites in **Butte**, Montana.

“For 35 years, Butte has been riding a bumpy roller coaster with Superfund,” said “Richest Hill” host and producer Nora Saks. “When I discovered that Butte was heading toward a major Superfund cleanup deal, I wanted to learn more about the history, science and political forces at play, and even more importantly the real people who will be affected by these lasting decisions.”



Saks, a University of Montana School of Journalism graduate, is a reporter for Montana Public Radio and has covered Superfund issues in Butte for the past two years.

“Nora has gathered some amazing tape from all kinds of people in Butte – from the politically powerful to some of the last underground miners still around, and everyone in between,” said MTPR News Director Eric Whitney. “We can’t wait to share all these great stories.”

“Richest Hill” will explore the biggest changes and toughest questions facing the Mining City. It’ll look at where Butte came from, what’s happening right now and where Butte might be headed.

The first episode will be available online and via podcast March 5. The series also will air on MTPR later this spring.

Listeners can tune in at <https://buttepodcast.org/> or <http://www.mtpr.org/programs/richest-hill> and subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.

For more information visit <https://buttepodcast.org/>, <http://www.mtpr.org/programs/richest-hill>, or <http://bit.ly/2XBHfpM>.

###

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Montana Science Fair Set for March 18 at UM

February 25, 2019

MISSOULA – High school and middle school students from across Montana will present their research findings during the 64th annual Montana Science Fair on Monday, March 18, at the University of Montana Adams Center.

Registration and exhibit set up will take place from 8 a.m. to noon, and this coincides with the UM STEAM Lounge, where UM researchers and scientists will host hands-on activities for



parents, teachers and students.

Student projects will be judged from 1 and 4:30 p.m., and the exhibits will be open for public viewing from 7 to 9 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 19, the public can view the projects from 8 to 9 a.m., and the awards ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. in UM's Dennison Theatre.

More than \$15,000 in prizes will be awarded to student winners, including cash awards, scholarships and all-expense-paid trips. The grand award winners from the Montana Science Fair and Montana's regional fairs will then compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair May 12-17 in Phoenix. Montana's delegates to the National Youth Science Camp, a monthlong science education program that honors two high school seniors from each state, also will be announced.

UM sponsors the Montana Science Fair with support from a variety of campus and community groups and individuals. More than 300 judges, including UM staff, students, faculty and community professionals, also volunteer their time.

Judges are still needed. Sign up using the "Judges & Volunteers" button at <http://hs.umt.edu/mtsciencefair/>. A full schedule of events also is online at <http://hs.umt.edu/mtsciencefair/fairInformation/schedule.php>.

For more information visit <http://hs.umt.edu/mtsciencefair/> or reach out to Science Fair Director Earle Adams (406-830-7620, earle.adams@mso.umt.edu) or coordinator Michelle Quinn (406-243-4866, michelle.quinn@mso.umt.edu).

###

Contact: Earle Adams, Montana Science Fair director, 406-830-7620, earle.adams@mso.umt.edu; Michelle Quinn, Montana Science Fair coordinator, 406-243-4866, michelle.quinn@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Undergrad Students Produce Science Podcasts

February 22, 2019

MISSOULA – University of Montana students were asked to produce science podcasts during a Principles of Living Systems lab class last semester. About 80 biology podcasts were created as group projects, and the top three now are available online at <https://soundcloud.com/user-498377773>.

The top picks dive into the genetics of acne, cloning, and the possibility of life naturally spreading across the universe.



The 5- to 7-minute pieces cover a range of topics, and UM President Seth Bodnar even makes an appearance to share his own youthful struggle with acne.

“I was blown away by the professional-level podcasts these students put together,” said Art Woods, the biology professor who co-taught the class with Scott Miller. “Being part of a podcast myself, I know what it takes. They did great work that communicated complex ideas in interesting and understandable ways. I couldn’t be more proud.”

“Is Acne Genetic?” was produced by Rachel Bingham of **Oakton, Virginia**; Diego Gonzalez of **Missoula**; Madeleine Itschner of **West Linn, Oregon**; and Sydney Gallant of **La Habre Heights, California**.

“Cloning: Down to the Science” was created by Madison Goldstein of **Tucson, Arizona**; Raina Woolworth of **Oxford, Mississippi**; and Hannah Hollenback of **Superior**.

The panspermia, life-in-space podcast, “Tardigrades in Space,” was made by Patrick Boise of **Emigrant** and Chance Cunningham of **Vancouver, Washington**.

Woods said three essential teaching assistants, all biology graduate students, guided the undergraduate students through the creation of the podcasts. They were Nikea Ulrich, Maddy Cochrane and Laurel Genzoli.

“I hope people give these entertaining podcasts a listen,” Woods said. “I think they really highlight the talent level of students attracted to the University of Montana.”

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New UM Program to Boost Rural Economic Development

February 21, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana recently was awarded a grant that will fund efforts to help distressed rural and tribal communities develop sustainable, high-growth entrepreneurial ecosystems.

The University earned a five-year, \$730,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's 2018 University Center Economic Development Program Competition.

The new funding creates the UM Center for Rural Economic Development (UMCRED) to broaden the reach of another University program, Accelerate Montana (<http://acceleratemontana.umt.edu/>), which is designed to boost Big Sky businesses from the idea stage all the way to global expansion.

"This award affirms the University of Montana's strong commitment to economic development and to the type of research, innovation and expertise that fosters high-growth entrepreneurship in the great state of Montana," UM President Seth Bodnar said.

The key objectives of the new center are:

- stimulating entrepreneurial engagement and activity that provides quick wins and momentum.
- community building by creating local capacity in terms of community leaders, community knowledge, locally organized events, networks and programming that will sustain high-growth business-building ecosystems beyond the duration of UMCRED.
- boosting new venture creation through programming that encourages individuals and teams in the service region to develop new, innovative value propositions and business models – particularly those focused on rural and tribal challenges and opportunities.
- identifying potential lucrative business ventures and supporting growth through access to mentoring, growth capital and growth markets.

Paul Gladen, director of Accelerate Montana and the Blackstone LaunchPad at UM, will lead the new center. He will be assisted by Morgan Slemberger, Blackstone LaunchPad assistant director; Brigitta Miranda-Freer, executive director of the Montana World Trade Center; and Jennifer Stephens, regional director of the Missoula Small Business Development Center. The grant also will fund a new outreach and engagement manager.

UMCRED also has received significant commitments of expertise and resources from the following organizations active in Montana's entrepreneurship ecosystem: Conradi Anderson, Crowley Fleck, Frontier Angels, Goodworks Ventures and Worden Thane.

Gladen said UMCRED will work with economic development partners across the state to perform a needs and assets assessment of service regions.

"This will identify prioritized needs in terms of capability gaps and programming and inform the balance and prioritization across new venture and high growth activity," he said. "UMCRED will then provide workshops or training and access to online training materials and resources that cover a range of relevant topics."

These topics will include ideation and design thinking, value proposition design, business models, financial modeling, seeking investment funding, foreign direct investment, startup legal essentials, intellectual property, accessing public funds and reaching global markets.

"All these topics can assist local economic development professionals and local entrepreneurs to enhance their understanding and application of early stage entrepreneurship or high-growth frameworks and practices," Gladen said.

The Blackstone LaunchPad powered by Techstars is an entrepreneurship program that helps UM students and alumni succeed. Open to all students and alumni in all majors, the campus-based organization enables participants to access mentoring, grow their network and access the resources to accelerate the success of their business. Visit <https://www.umt.edu/launchpad/> for more information.

###

Contact: Paul Gladen, director, Accelerate Montana at UM, 406-396-3534, paul.gladen@umontana.edu.



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GradCon to Showcase UM Graduate Student Research

February 20, 2019

MISSOULA – University of Montana graduate students from across the academic disciplines will present their research at the 18th annual Graduate Conference on Friday, Feb. 22, in the University Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Using oral and poster presentations, performances and a panel discussion, graduate students will share their research and creative scholarship on topics ranging from nanotechnology to forestry and musical theater.

“We always are excited to showcase the talent, creativity and intellectual firepower of our graduate students, so it’s an honor and privilege to sponsor an event that brings that dynamic energy to the wider community of the University and Missoula,” said Ashby Kinch, associate dean of UM’s Graduate School.

All GradCon events will take place on the third floor of the University Center. The schedule follows:

- **9 a.m. to noon** – 15-minute oral presentations, UC 300 rooms.
- **Noon to 12:30 p.m.** – Complimentary lunch for participants and attendees, UC North Ballroom.

- **12:30 to 1:20 p.m.** – “Elemental Needs,” a graduate student panel on food, water and energy, UC North Ballroom.
- **1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** – 15-minute oral presentations, UC 300 rooms.
- **3:20 to 4:30 p.m.** – Performing and visual arts presentations, UC North/South Ballroom.
- **5 to 6 p.m.** – Poster presentation session, UC North Ballroom.
- **6 to 6:30 p.m.** – Best of GradCon Awards, UC North Ballroom.

Hors d'oeuvres and a no-host cash bar will be available to participants and attendees during the poster presentation and awards sessions.

GradCon is organized by the UM Graduate and Professional Student Association. It is sponsored by UM's Office of Research and Creative Scholarship and the UM Graduate School, with additional training and student support provided by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library and UM Writing and Public Speaking Center.

For a complete schedule and a listing of presenters, abstracts and faculty mentors, visit <https://www.umt.edu/sell/cps/gradcon/default.php>.

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Contact: Ashby Kinch, UM Graduate School associate dean, 406-243-5231, ashby.kinch@umontana.edu.



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Montana Museum of Art & Culture Exhibition to Celebrate Beloved Painter

February 20, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – A new exhibition showcasing the works of Stephanie Frostad will open at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at the University of Montana on Thursday, Feb. 28.

An opening reception will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. that day in the Montana Museum of Art & Culture's Paxson Gallery in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center at UM. The exhibition will run through June 15.

Through works spanning her career, the exhibition spans Frostad's creative concern with myths and metaphors brought to life as pictorial realism. The storytelling tradition is vital to her mission: to create a truly democratic art.

"As a narrative painter," Frostad says, "my objective is to present the essential elements of a story."

Frostad builds pictures that are sometimes joyful, sometimes mysterious, uncanny and even dark. In her most arresting works, the viewer is struck with a prevailing sense that a pivotal event is looming or has just taken place.

Ultimately, Frostad said she is moved by the response her pictures bring about in her viewers, as they respond with their own stories.

“With careful measures of clarity and ambiguity, I hope to create imaginative space for viewers to bring their own perspectives and experiences into the tale,” she said.

In her recent works, Frostad uses graphite to lend her stories a supernatural yet universal quality most closely associated with fables. Her fascination with traditions and myths is befitting her longstanding inquiry into identity, relationships, community and place.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Frostad will present a gallery talk at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, April 4, in the PAR/TV Center lobby.

MMAC’s gallery hours run from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday and from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and it is closed Sundays, Mondays and UM holidays. The museum is open to the public with a suggested \$5 donation. Docent tours are available, although advance notice is recommended.

###

Note to Media: For images, please contact MMAC Curator Jeremy Canwell at jeremy.canwell@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Jeremy Canwell, MMAC curator, 406-243-2019, jeremy.canwell@mso.umt.edu.



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UM to Host Free Mindfulness Workshops

February 20, 2019

MISSOULA – University of Montana’s Student Involvement Network will host a series of free workshops on the value and practice of mindfulness.

The first of three workshops, Mindfulness 101, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, in University Center Room 333. Free and open to the public, the workshop will introduce mindfulness and mediation techniques taught by Christine Lustik, an experienced instructor on mindfulness, meditation and yoga and owner of Mindfulness in Organizations. A light dinner will be provided to workshop attendees.

Two additional workshops will be offered Thursday, March 21, and Thursday, April 18.

The Student Involvement Network is a student-driven organization in the UC that hosts a diverse range of campus events. For more information call 406-243-4115 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/uc/student-involvement/>.

###

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UM to Commemorate 58 Years of Peace Corps with Service Stories

February 20, 2019

MISSOULA – Friday, March 1, marks the 58th anniversary of the Peace Corps, and the University of Montana will commemorate the milestone with a free event in the Branch Center lounge from 3 to 5 p.m.

During the celebration of Peace Corps service, returned volunteers will share stories and photos from around the world. The event is a joint effort between the UM campus Peace Corps representative and the Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers group. Refreshments will be provided.

Missoula has one of the highest rates of Peace Corps volunteers in the country, with UM as one of the top-volunteering producing universities per capita. Last year, Missoula had 12 Peace Corps volunteers per 100,000 people, and UM ranked fourth in the nation for medium-sized colleges producing volunteers. As of September 2017, UM had 34 alumni serving in the Peace Corps in 22 countries around the world.

A total of 883 UM alumni have volunteered in the Peace Corps since 1961.

For more information on the event, call Kevin Deitle, UM Peace Corps campus representative, at 406-243-2839 or

email peacecorps@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Kevin Deitle, UM Peace Corps campus representative, 406-243-2839, peacecorps@umontana.edu.



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UM's Mansfield Dialogues to Explore Modern Challenges to World Peace

February 19, 2019

MISSOULA – The Mansfield Center at the University of Montana has announced its spring schedule for the Mansfield Dialogues, a community lecture series that reflects the center's mission to promote an understanding of Asia, public affairs and ethics.

The spring Mansfield Dialogues' theme, Challenges to a Peaceful World in 2019, is inspired by the top conflict-prevention priorities identified by the Council on Foreign Relations' Center for Preventative Action, and U.S. foreign policy experts. Held from noon to 12:50 p.m. on the UM campus, the dialogue sessions are free and open to the public. The spring schedule is as follows:

- **Wednesday, Feb. 27**, University Center Room 330: "Russia's Role in the Digital World," presented by Julie Sirrs, attorney, co-founder of Montanans for National Security, and former Defense Intelligence Agency analyst.
- **Wednesday, March 13**, University Center Room 225: "The Future of Denuclearization in North Korea," presented by Korean and American adjunct faculty members of UM's Mansfield Defense Critical Language and Culture Program.
- **Wednesday, March 20**, Mansfield Library Theta Rho Room: "Beyond the Cyber Hype: What We Know and

What Is New About the Politics of Cyber Security,” presented by Dr. Eva-Maria Maggi, visiting assistant professor in UM’s Department of Political Science.

- **Wednesday, April 10**, University Center Room 332: “Yemen’s Spiraling Humanitarian Disaster,” presented by Owen Sirrs, adjunct faculty, UM’s Mansfield Defense Critical Language and Culture Program.
- **Wednesday, April 24**, University Center Room 330: “Conflicting Claims: The Challenges of Managing Shared Natural Resources,” presented by Fellows in the U.S. Department of States’ Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative.

The Mansfield Center promotes U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield.

For more information and extended session descriptions, visit <http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/events/mansfield-dialogue.php> or call 406-243-2988.

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Charter Day Celebration to Mark UM's Birthday Feb. 27

February 19, 2019

MISSOULA – The community is invited to help the University of Montana celebrate its 126th birthday during the Charter Day awards ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 27, in the University Center Ballroom.

The doors will open at 5 p.m., and the ceremony will start at 5:30 p.m. Twelve individuals from campus and the community will receive awards during the event, sponsored by the UM Office of Alumni Relations, and President Seth Bodnar will deliver an address. A reception will follow.

The individuals honored with Charter Day awards this year are:

- **ASUM Student Service Award:** Tommy Jensen, a senior in the sustainable construction program at Missoula

UM *Charter Day* 2019

College UM West Campus. This award recognizes distinguished service and achievement.

- **George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment:** John Sommers-Flanagan, a clinical psychologist and professor of counselor education at UM. This award recognizes distinguished accomplishments that have brought significant recognition to UM at the regional and national levels.
- **George M. Dennison Presidential Staff Award for Distinguished Accomplishment:** Hilton "Skip" Conroy, a laborer and equipment operator for Facilities Services. This award recognizes distinguished accomplishment within the employee's work unit that brings excellence, merit, distinction or glory to UM.
- **John Ruffatto Memorial Award:** Michael Braun, the Poe Family Distinguished Fellow in Entrepreneurship in the Department of Management and Marketing. This award recognizes UM faculty who bring practical, applicable business principles into the classroom.
- **Montana Alumni Award:** Carl Smart, president of the UM Alumni Band and retired band director. This award recognizes a friend of UM or former student for extraordinary service to the University.
- **Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award:** Dennis and Gretchen Eck, alums who have generously supported UM financially. This award recognizes extraordinary effort to foster an understanding of UM's needs and strengths throughout the community and the state.
- **Outstanding Community Engagement Award:** Rob Tapper, associate professor of trombone and director of jazz studies at UM. This award recognizes contributions toward the development and growth of mutually beneficial campus and community partnerships.
- **Robert T. Pantzer Presidential Humanitarian Award:** Elizabeth Ametsbichler, chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures at UM. This award recognizes those who create a more humane learning environment at UM.
- **Tom Boone Town and Gown Award:** Kathleen "Annie" Sondag, professor of public and community health in the Department of Health and Human Performance and the School of Public and Community Health Sciences at UM. This award recognizes faculty members who foster a deeper understanding between the University and Missoula.
- **President Royce Engstrom Endowed Prize in University Citizenship:** Zach Brown, a UM alum who is serving his third term in the Montana Legislature. This award recognizes a former student for extraordinary service to the University.
- **B. Speer Award for Distinguished Administrative Service:** Lucy France, a member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys and UM's Office of Legal Counsel. This award recognizes an administrator who has made an extraordinary commitment and contribution to the University.

To read bios for the Charter Day award recipients, visit <https://grizalum.org/events/charter-day/2019-winners/default.php>.

For more information on Charter Day, call Angela Weisenburger, on-campus events coordinator in the UM Office of Alumni Relations, at 406-243-6439 or email angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu.

###

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UM Statewide Business Challenge Competition Selects Competitors

February 15, 2019

MISSOULA – Montana’s aspiring entrepreneurs include impressive students from across the state. The annual John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge, hosted by the University of Montana College of Business and UM-based Blackstone LaunchPad, received 18 applications from student teams across the state to compete for the over \$50,000 in prize money.

A panel of judges selected 12 teams to compete Friday, March 8, at UM. The teams will pitch their business to a panel of around 50 judges in hopes of receiving a portion of the prize money, which is generously contributed by businesses, organizations and individuals committed to the future of entrepreneurship in Montana.

“The selection committee was excited to again see the diversity of ideas submitted, as well as the passion, innovation and creativity driving student entrepreneurs from across the state,” said Paul Gladen, director of Blackstone LaunchPad at UM and leader of the competition’s organizing team.

In its 30th year, the business challenge attracted student entrepreneurs exploring a variety of ventures – from an aquaponics farm to event ticketing software. Finalists represent both UM and Montana State University, with majors

that include business, political science, psychology, management information systems, forestry, finance, computer science, health and human development, and environmental studies.

Of these diverse competitors, four finalists will be selected to compete for the top four prizes at the evening's public event, including the \$15,000 first place cash prize.

Doors open to the public event at 4:30 p.m., and the competition begins at 5 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall of UM's Music Building. A reception will follow with complimentary food and a cash bar in the Gilkey Education Building.

Tickets for the event cost \$15 and are available online at <http://bit.ly/2GsQ2VK>. Students are admitted free.

Notable past business challenge winners include Chilton Skis and restaurant Five on Black.

A list of 2019 competitors follows:

Bits & Brews – aims to provide a haven for like-minded competitive and social gamers by offering rentable video game pods and PCs, hosting competitive video gaming tournaments and offering an atmosphere where everybody knows your game.

CubiEZ – provides a compact and convenient way to store your charging needs.

Cultivated by Native Montana – a sustainable, vertical garden business that uses aquaponics to grow fresh crops for the community of Busby, which is located on the Northern Cheyenne reservation.

Key to the Mountain – an ultra-efficient energy compound for outdoor professionals that need all-day sustainable energy with a clear mind.

KUBED– a frozen smoothie cube made from kale, chia seed, and coconut milk that allows you to easily and conveniently boost the nutritional value of any smoothie without the mess or hassle.

May West Milkweed – helps conscious consumers stay warm by making winter jackets from milkweed.

Peak Retreats – a multichannel network that connects female founders and executives with nationally renowned consultants, determined peers and educational content designed to supplement their personal and professional goals.

Scry Chat Inc. – an app for sharing dating experiences and advice.

Serapis Systems Inc. – reduces the pain of purchasing a private health insurance policy for private health insurance customers by creating a personalized comparison for every policy using a unique data analytics web service.

Sellout, Inc. – a cloud-based event ticketing platform for the progressive event organizer designed to combat scalping and fraud.

The Ant Network – uses a combination of digital media, physical exhibits and educational experiences to enable

and encourage people to interact with and care for the Earth's biodiversity.

Weaver Web Solutions – a service tech company that provides marketers with high-quality leads at a significantly lower price point and in greater numbers than possible with their current efforts.

###

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UM Calls for Researchers, Innovators for New STEM Program

February 15, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana now is accepting applications for research and innovative ideas with the potential to impact the world for its first STEM cohort in a new program.

UM gained Innovation-Corps Site (I-Corps) site status from the National Science Foundation in October 2018 and is now part of a nationwide program to create a science, technology, engineering and math ecosystem to successfully commercialize research. UM's I-Corps Site is affiliated with the I-Corps Node at the University of California, Berkeley.

Researchers and innovators in STEM fields are strongly encouraged to contact the program to explore the potential for broader impacts and commercialization of their research or inventions.

“The I-Corps program is a tremendous opportunity for researchers and innovators at UM and across Montana to receive guidance and support to explore their STEM ideas,” said Paul Gladen, director of the Blackstone LaunchPad and one of the principal investigators for the grant. “We’re excited to help grow the impact of STEM research and expertise in Montana and beyond.”

The five-week program provides training and coaching to help accepted teams perform outreach toward target users and markets to gain an understanding of their potential impact and value. All training and one-on-one assistance is free of charge, and teams may receive grants of up to \$2,500 to assist with their market research.

Teams completing the program and gaining promising indications of commercial potential may be invited to apply for regional and national NSF I-Corps programs, in which more customer research and training, along with up to \$50,000 in funding, are provided to further the commercialization effort.

The program will be offered up to four times in 2019, with the first cohort beginning Feb. 25. All University faculty, staff and students are eligible to apply, as well as researchers and innovators from across Montana.

Applications may be submitted on a rolling basis for the first and future cohorts at

<https://www.umt.edu/launchpad/icorps/>.

Other principal investigators and NSF I-Corps team members from UM are Scott Mills, associate vice president of research; Jakki Mohr, Regents Professor of Marketing in the College of Business; Monica Serban, assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Travis Wheeler, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science; Phill Guay, consultant; and Dylan Berget, a UM law and Master of Business Administration student.

For more information visit <https://www.umt.edu/launchpad/icorps/> or email Gladen at paul.gladen@umontana.edu.

###

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UM News

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UM to Host 30th Annual Big Sky Employment Fair

February 15, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host its 30th annual Big Sky Employment Fair for UM students and alumni to meet with prospective employers from local, regional and national companies.

Hosted by UM's Office of Career Services, the employment fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, in the University Center Ballroom. Attendees are encouraged to bring resumes and dress



professionally.

The annual event is free and open to all UM students and alumni from all academic disciplines. Recruiters will share opportunities for professional full-time positions, part-time employment, summer jobs and internships, and volunteer opportunities. Several employment recruiters will stay the following day, Thursday, March 7, to interview candidates.

Students and alumni can review a list of companies attending the fair at <http://bit.ly/2TEq30i>. By logging into Handshake, a recruitment platform for students and job seekers, students also can view which employers will interview the day after the fair and sign-up for on-campus interviews.

Career Services provides students and alumni practical tools for job seeking, including interview practice, feedback on appropriate dress, resume support and coaching on networking with prospective employers. For more information, call UM Career Services Recruiting Coordinator Emily Johnson at 406-243-2239.

###

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UM Bio Station Researchers Awarded NASA Grant to Track Aquatic Invasive Species

February 14, 2019

FLATHEAD LAKE – Stopping invasive species from destroying ecosystems and regional economies is among the world’s greatest challenges. Now, thanks to a grant from NASA, an investigative team of researchers at the University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station will launch a new project enabling officials to predict the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) through remote sensing, genetic monitoring and climate forecasting.

The spread of invasive species and climate warming are huge challenges, and the two threats actually work hand-in-hand. As the climate of an area warms, it puts strain on the native species. This makes it easier for nonnative or invasive species to move in and dramatically disrupt a native ecosystem. The invading species may flourish, while the native species often fade away.

This is not just an environmental issue. Nonnative and invasive species in the United States now cause economic losses totaling more than \$125 billion each year. In Montana, zebra mussels alone are predicted to cost \$234

million a year in mitigation costs and lost revenue, according to a report conducted by FLBS research economist Nanette Nelson.

“The goal of our project is to increase early detection of AIS,” said Gordon Luikart, a renowned FLBS researcher and the driving force behind the grant. “We want to provide managers with the most informative and accurate tools as possible, so they can increase their odds of early detection and reduce spread in cost-effective and efficient ways.”



One way the project aims to do this is through developing web-based software that will

integrate existing long-term observational AIS databases. This integration will include information that currently exists in a United States Geological Survey database with observations submitted by state and government agencies across the country. The project will provide software and forms to assist agencies in this process.

Additionally, the project will establish the first national environmental DNA database. More sensitive and less expensive than traditional field surveys, eDNA can be used almost like a blood test to detect health issues such as parasites or cancer. While it may not always detect the exact location of AIS, monitoring for eDNA does indicate whether an AIS presence is likely nearby. This information can enhance decision-making, allowing officials to direct resources and conduct more extensive efforts in more efficient ways to find and potentially eradicate or prevent spread of the AIS.

“If you think of a water body as a human body, then it’s easy to imagine aquatic invasive species as a type of aggressive cancer,” Luikart said. “The earlier you’re able to detect it, the greater the odds you’ll be able to eradicate it before it has the opportunity to spread to more vital areas. But if invasive mussels, for example, go undetected and have a chance to metastasize, if they invade a lake and infest, then the body of water and everything downstream will be lost or changed forever.”



That's why early detection is the key. Once up and running, these

observational and eDNA databases will be used alongside a NASA climate warming data to map and predict the spread of AIS within and among water bodies. Officials also will be able to use the data to identify areas with the highest potential for future AIS invasion, allowing them to start taking steps toward prevention as early as possible.

The collaborative project is made possible with extensive help and support from several state and federal agencies, including Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the U.S. Geological Survey, NASA and the U.S. Forest Service.

"We're very fortunate to be able to work alongside these agencies on this project and so many others," Luikart said. "The U.S. Forest Service and FWP have been incredible partners, and we're eager to do everything in our power to sustain our water systems for as long as we can."

Members of the project's investigative team include Luikart and UM FLBS faculty members Cody Youngbull and Brian Hand; USGS and FLBS research ecologist Clint Muhlfeld; Numerical Terradynamic Simulation Group professor John Kimball; and USGS AIS program lead Adam Sepulveda.

For more information on this NASA-funded research project, email Luikart at gordon.luikart@umontana.edu.

###

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Black Solidarity Summit to Take Place at UM

February 13, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Black Student Union and the University Center Student Involvement Network will host the second annual Black Solidarity Summit from Saturday to Monday, Feb. 16-18, in the UC.

The summit will bring together representatives from black student unions, African student associations and black studies programs around the Northwest to address issues of racial discrimination, political disenfranchisement, social organization, black academic enrollment and retention.

The event serves as a platform for black students and their allies to support one another and engage in discourse about vital issues impacting black students. The summit is three days of presentations by UM faculty, staff, students and Missoula community members. Representatives from Montana State University, Boise State University and Alma College also will present.

Although registration for the summit is closed, the keynote address, featuring Ericka Hart, is free and open to the public. Hart is a black queer femme activist, writer, highly acclaimed speaker and award-winning sexuality educator. Her voice is rooted in leading-edge thought around human sexual expression as inextricable to overall human

health and its intersections with race, gender, chronic illness and disability.

For more information visit the event website at <http://www.umt.edu/solidarity>.

###

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UM School of Theatre and Dance to Present 'August: Osage County'

February 12, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance will produce the comic drama “August: Osage County” by Tracy Letts for audiences in the Montana Theatre of UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27-28, March 1 and March 6-9. Matinee performances will be at 2 p.m. March 2-3 and March 10.

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

“August: Osage County” is the Tony Award-winning and Pulitzer Prize-winning story of family secrets old and new. Long-buried resentments are unearthed in the aftermath of an Oklahoma patriarch’s disappearance. The caustic, all-too-human members of the Weston clan love one another ferociously, but dislike each other with even greater

intensity. Three generations convene under the same roof for what becomes an epic and prolonged meltdown and an unforgettable ride that The New York Times called “fiercely funny and bitingly sad.”

Audience discretion is advised, as the play includes mature themes and content.

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

###

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UM Program Helps High School Students With Disabilities Consider College

February 12, 2019

MISSOULA – A program based at the University of Montana helps high school students with disabilities experience college life, learn about disability rights, and connect with academic and community resources.

As part of Movin' On in Montana Summer Program, set for July 9-12 at UM, potential students will stay in residence halls, eat on campus, sample college lectures, participate in workshops, interact with college students of all abilities and explore Missoula recreational activities.

“Since 2015, over 65 high school students from across Montana have attended our Movin' On in Montana Summer Program,” said Suzy Bertsche, the program coordinator. “Students say the program opens their eyes to the endless possibilities that college has to offer. They learn that college is so much more than classes – there are groups and activities and tremendous opportunities as they earn a valuable education.”

UM also offers a Movin' On in Montana Club, which gives students more opportunities to explore life after high school. Open to all Montana high school students with disabilities, the club currently is accepting students.

Bertsche said students connect with UM student mentors through online educational activities to develop self-advocacy and leadership skills while learning about the differences between high school and college life.

Movin' On in Montana is a collaborative effort of the [UM Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities](#) and [UM Disability Services for Students](#). It is partly funded by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

For more information about Movin' On in Montana, visit <http://www.umt.edu/dss/Transition/default.php>.

###

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UM Enrollment Stabilizes With Increased Persistence Rate

February 12, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana saw a stabilization of its enrollment from fall 2018 to spring 2019, with an overall headcount census of 10,644 students.

While the University began fall semester with a lower number of students than the previous fall, it saw an uptick of 1.7 percent in the persistence rate of students from fall to spring semester, resulting in higher than anticipated tuition revenue for the University.

“We are excited by this news and the direction it takes us,” said Seth Bodnar, UM’s president. “We have been working to improve student services across the institution. Our goal is very clear: We want students to not only come to the University of Montana, but to persist and succeed through graduation and beyond.”

Last year, UM began a review and overhaul of its student support systems and organizational structure to ensure a holistic, comprehensive focus on student success – in and out of the classroom. It recently hired Sarah Swager as its new vice provost for student success. She began her duties Feb 1.

Swager will work with Cathy Cole, the new vice president for enrollment and strategic communication, who joined UM over the summer. Cole has worked hard since day one, working with the enrollment staff to make changes that would immediately impact prospective students.

“We also are fixing the breaks in our recruiting infrastructure,” Cole said. “And we are starting to see positive indicators that show enrollment is slowly turning around. Most students are accepting scholarships earlier, more students are signing up for New Student Orientation sooner and more students engaging with us through various communication channels. Those are all good signs.”

Cole also acknowledged UM’s past struggles with recruitment of new students, while expressing optimism that she sees the tide beginning to turn.

“We have had some challenges in the past in recruitment at the University of Montana,” Cole said. “But as we meet with prospective students and their families in Butte, in Billings, in Great Falls, in Bozeman, we are hearing more and more that the University of Montana is an institution that meets their academic needs and will provide the type of experience they want for their collegiate career. We are ready to provide all that and more at UM.”

Undergraduate enrollment at UM’s central mountain campus stands at 6,196, with graduate student enrollment at 2,667. Missoula College has 1,781 students. The full enrollment report is posted online at <http://www.umt.edu/data>.

###

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US Air Force Academy Jazz Band to Perform Free Concert at UM Feb. 19

February 12, 2019

MISSOULA – The official jazz band for the U.S. Air Force Academy, the Falconaires, will present a free concert for the public at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the University of Montana Dennison Theatre. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are not required to attend.

The concert will feature an eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary jazz pieces that celebrate America's heritage. The band is one of nine performing ensembles within the Air Force Academy. Comprised of 18 professional active duty airman musicians, the Falconaires represent an Air Force mission of providing professional music for official military, recruiting



and community events worldwide.

The Air Force Academy Band has been in operation for more than 60 years, harnessing the power of music to honor national heroes, inspire Air Force personnel and the nation they serve, produce innovative musical programs and communicate Air Force excellence to millions around the world.

###

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UM Student-Produced TV Program to Highlight Montana Businesses for 26th Season

February 11, 2019

MISSOULA – University of Montana School of Journalism students recently produced the latest edition of “Business: Made in Montana,” a television program featuring businesses based in the Big Sky State.

The new program will premiere at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, across the state on MontanaPBS. Encore presentations are scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, and 2 a.m. Monday, Feb. 18.

This episode introduces viewers to Green Build and Happy Dog Beer Co. in Bozeman; DAYSPA Body Basics, based in Missoula; Mustard Seed Sauce and Dressing Company, located in Florence; and Notice Custom Snowboards in Whitefish.

Bozeman Green Build is a leading provider of affordable solar photovoltaics, or PV systems, with extensive experience working with agriculture producers, small businesses, local and state governments, and families across

the West.

Happy Dog Beer Co. makes “beer” specially for dogs using quality ingredients like free-range chicken and grass-fed beef. The Irresistible Pooch Ale (IPA) and Dubble Dog Dare Ya are distributed in bottles to locations across the country, including Washington, D.C., Washington state, Oregon and California.

DAYSPA Body Basics handcrafts 100 percent natural, “farm-to-skin” bath and body products that are allergy- and chemical-free.

Mustard Seed Sauce and Dressing Company decided that it was time to bring the Mustard Seed and Noodle Express Restaurants’ unique and deliciously fresh Asian-inspired flavored sauces and dressings to the retail marketplace.

Notice Custom Snowboards are made to order with custom designs and graphics using USA-sourced materials.

Students produced the program during spring semester 2018. Junior journalism student Laura Freeman hosts the program.

“Business: Made in Montana” is made possible with support from the Greater Montana Foundation. Founded by pioneer broadcaster Ed Craney in 1958, GMF provides grants to improve the quality of communications of important issues through electronic media. More information is available online at <http://www.greatermontana.org>.

MontanaPBS comprises KUFM-TV in Missoula and KUSM-TV in Bozeman and is a service of UM and Montana State University.

###

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UM to Celebrate 50th Birthday of University Center

February 08, 2019

MISSOULA – University of Montana students, faculty and staff and the community are invited to celebrate the University Center turning 50 years old with free food and building-wide activities from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20.

The event will include birthday cake and desserts, coffee and waffles in the Branch Center, a game of giant Jenga hosted by the Griz Card Center, a scavenger hunt with a raffle, gaming consoles, table tennis, cornhole, music from KBGA, UC Art Gallery tours, then-and-now historical displays, open play in the UC Game Room, Innovation Factory interactive displays and tours, and ASUM Childcare storytelling.



Participants can stop by the new Student Group Resource Center, check out the space and eat some popcorn. Student groups are welcome to enter into a \$50 raffle that will be added into their

MST account. Pizza Hut and Jus Chillin' will offer discounts throughout the day, and organizers will serve up slices of cake and free swag from the Missoula Federal Credit Union at check-in.

The fun continues after 2 p.m. with free play all day in the UC Game Room and a movie later that evening. The Game Room will host a free pizza party from 5 to 7 p.m., and the UC Theater will hold a free screening of "Wonder Woman" with complimentary popcorn and soda from 7 to 9 p.m.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.umt.edu/uc/uc-50th.php>, the Facebook event or the UMontana app.

###

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UM Lecture Series to Celebrate Man's First Steps on Moon

February 06, 2019

MISSOULA – It has been 50 years since the adventure of space exploration began, and the final frontier has yielded many exciting discoveries. In this year's 21st annual Community Lecture Series, "Shoot for the Moon," University of Montana faculty will highlight these discoveries and the evolution of space exploration, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of man's first step on the moon.

Presented by the UM Alumni Association, the lectures will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday, Feb. 12 through March 19, in the University Center Theater. Faculty will explore topics ranging from the history of NASA space



travel to the potential for life on other planets.

A schedule of the lectures is:

- **Feb. 12:** "60 Years of NASA and the Atmosphere," Anna Klene, UM geography professor.
- **Feb. 19:** "Did You Know NASA Does Earth Science? A History," Steve Running, UM Regents Professor of ecology.
- **Feb. 26:** "Sputnik and the Launching of the Space Race," Mike Meyer, UM history professor.
- **March 5:** "There's No Place Like Home, Or Is there? Earth and its Neighbor Planets," Nancy Hinman, UM geosciences/astrobiology professor.
- **March 12:** "Science Fiction on the Eve on Apollo 11: The Space Odysseys of Stanley Kubrick and Arthur C. Clarke," Rob Browning, UM science fiction lecturer.
- **March 19:** "To Infinity and Beyond: The Search for Life Beyond the Solar System," Nate McCrady, UM astrophysics associate professor.

Tickets for all six lectures cost \$25 for the public, \$20 for UMAA dues-paying members and \$10 for students. Seats are limited and sell out quickly. Purchase tickets online at <https://grizalum.org/events/cls/default.php> or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 406-243-5211.

###

Contact: Angela Weisenburger, on-campus events coordinator, UM Alumni Association, 406-243-6439, angela.weisenburger@umontana.edu.

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UM Women's Center to Present Annual 'Vagina Monologues' Production

February 05, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Women's Resource Center will host its annual production of "The Vagina Monologues" at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, in UM's Dennison Theatre. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and cash-only \$10 tickets will be available at the door.

Proceeds from the event will benefit UM's Student Advocacy Resource Center, a campus organization dedicated to helping survivors of interpersonal violence and discrimination through support and advocacy.

Located in the University Center on campus, UM's Women's Resource Center is a student-run, consensus-based organization dedicated to raising awareness about women's and gender issues through community events and outreach. The production is also supported by The Good Work Studio, a Missoula art collaborative that fosters growth and celebration of the theatre arts.

"The Vagina Monologues" is an all-gendered, all-bodied production dedicated to voicing the experiences of

marginalized populations. This year's production will include an epilogue with original monologues, followed by a panel discussion about both the cultural value and limitations of The Vagina Monologues 20 years after they were first written and performed by Eve Ensler.

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Contact: Shelyssa Theel, UM Women's Resource Center Student Director, 605-381-9232 , umt.wrc@gmail.com.



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Environmental Leader Winona LaDuke to Deliver President's Lecture at UM

February 05, 2019

MISSOULA – Winona LaDuke, the internationally renowned environmentalist, economist and writer known for her work on tribal land claims, tribal preservation and sustainable development, will deliver a seminar and lecture on Tuesday, Feb. 26, as the next University of Montana President's Lecture Series guest.

LaDuke will present "Be the Ancestor Your Descendants Would Be Proud Of," the annual Brennan Guth Memorial Lecture in Environmental Philosophy, at 7:30 p.m. at The Wilma, located at 131 S. Higgins Ave.

She will also deliver the seminar "The Next Energy Economy: Grassroots Strategies to Mitigate Global Climate Change" at 3:30 p.m. in the University Center Theater at UM.



Both events are free and open to the public. Doors will open an hour before each event.

As executive director of Honor the Earth, which she co-founded with the Indigo Girls, she works alongside indigenous communities on climate change, renewable energy and environmental justice.

LaDuke lives and works on the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota, where she founded the White Earth Land Recovery Project, the Anishinaabe Agriculture Institute and Akiing: Eighth Fire Project. She also runs Winona's Hemp and Heritage Farm.

LaDuke has earned a global reputation as a leader on the issues of cultural-based sustainable development strategies, renewable energy and sustainable food systems. She is one of the leaders in the work of protecting indigenous plants and heritage foods from patenting and genetic engineering.

LaDuke was a co-founder and board co-chair of the Indigenous Women's Network for 15 years, and she maintains a significant role in international advocacy for indigenous people. This has included numerous presentations at United Nations forums and involvement in opposition to projects impacting indigenous communities.

A graduate of Harvard and Antioch universities and a community fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she has written extensively on Native American and environmental issues. Her six books include "Recovering the Sacred," "All Our Relations," "Last Standing Woman" and her newest work, "The Winona LaDuke Chronicles."

In 1994, LaDuke was nominated by Time magazine as one of America's 50 most promising leaders under age 40. She received the Thomas Merton Award in 1996, Ms. Woman of the Year (with the Indigo Girls) in 1997, and the Reebok Human Rights Award. In 2007, LaDuke was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, recognizing her leadership and commitment to community.

The President's Lecture Series at UM consists of several talks throughout the academic year on vital topics by distinguished guest speakers. For more information visit <http://umt.edu/president/events/lectures/>, call 406-243-2311 or email prestalk@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Robert Saldin, UM political science professor and President's Lecture Series coordinator, 406-243-2311, prestalk@umontana.edu.



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Missoula College to Host Trade Program for Underrepresented People

February 04, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Missoula College will partner with the YWCA’s Girls Representing in Trades (GRIT) Program on Friday to host an exploratory trades workshop for those underrepresented in the industrial technology industry – such as women and nonbinary and gender-diverse people.

The free event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Missoula College’s West Campus, 2795 37th Ave. Registration is required.

The workshop begins with a panel of trade representatives who will speak about entering trades workforces. Then female panelists will detail their experiences working in male-dominated fields. Participants then will rotate through five hands-on exploratory stations related to welding, construction, diesel technology, machining and heavy equipment operation.

“Careers in the trades can bring higher wages, better benefits, little-to-no student debt and even opportunities to get paid to learn,” said John Freer, director of MC’s Sustainable Construction Technology program. “What events like this bring is a chance for girls and women to learn about the career opportunities available to them within the trades

directly from other women.”

In coming years, employers will need to fill more than 2 million middle-skill jobs – requiring more than a high school diploma but less than a bachelor’s degree – in advanced manufacturing, information technology and transportation. Despite the economic opportunity they present, the vast majority of such positions are occupied by men.

GRIT works to balance employment opportunities by empowering women and nonbinary and gender diverse individuals to consider trade- and skill-related careers.

For more information on the event, call MC Communications Director Kevin Trevellyan at 858-775-4412 or email ktrevellyan@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Kevin Trevellyan, Missoula College communications director, 858-775-4412, ktrevellyan@umontana.edu.



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Public Invited to Hear Live Broadcast of 'Pianissimo!' Concert at State Capitol

February 04, 2019

MISSOULA – The public is invited to listen as the University of Montana School of Music performs its “Pianissimo!” Concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, in the Old Supreme Court Chamber in **Helena**.

This is the School of Music’s fourth invitation to perform for legislators, friends and supporters during the biennial sessions.

Although the chamber will be packed, the concert will livestream on the Montana Public Affairs Network (MPAN) at <https://bit.ly/2UAaiHT>. Viewers engage with the service through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or by checking their local listings.

A Missoula original and audience favorite, “Pianissimo!” is a dazzling and high-energy program, which has grown into a much-anticipated signature event of the Celebrate Piano Series. The 2018 performances marked the 11th annual event on campus, with two evening shows plus a special “Poco Pianissimo” for young audiences, all performed by more than 25 pianists playing on five gorgeous Steinway grand pianos in UM’s famed Music Recital Hall.

Established in 2008 as a fundraising event, "Pianissimo!" has allowed the Keyboard Division at UM to thrive. In 2016, the UM Keyboard Society won national recognition for the second time as the Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Chapter of the Year. The Missoula Piano Trio won third place nationally in the MTNA Young Artist Chamber Music Competition in San Antonio, and recent graduate Michael Zarling won the 27th annual Frances Walton competition in Seattle, resulting in a concert tour across Washington. In 2018, UM's Keyboard Society Chapter was selected to present a "Poster Session" on piano pedagogy at the MTNA National Conference in Orlando, Florida.

The Keyboard Fund also has helped purchase pianos and new benches for the School of Music and installed sound panels in the piano practice rooms to improve acoustics.

For more information on the concert, call Steven Hesla, UM School of Music keyboard area chair, at 406-241-6006 or email HeslaSK@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Steven Hesla, UM School of Music professor, 406-241-6006, HeslaSK@mso.umt.edu.



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Popular MontanaPBS Show Receives National Award

February 01, 2019

MISSOULA – “Backroads of Montana,” the popular MontanaPBS travelogue series, received recognition as one of the best in public media by the National Educational Telecommunications Association at a Jan. 21 gala event in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The episode “Rich with Tradition” was honored in the “Locally Sourced” category. The episode featured stories on the legend of Clubfoot George Lane, a family corn maze near **Bozeman**, the delicious delicacies from the Windmill Village Baker in **Ravalli**, a **Glasgow** man who transformed his garage into a brewery and the fascinating aircraft collection at the Stonehenge Air Museum near **Fortine**.

Host William Marcus, Gus Chambers, John Twiggs and Ray Ekness produce the program.



NETA honors public media's achievements in instructional media, community engagement, promotion and general audience content with the awards.

"Every one of us working in public media today can be proud of the NETA Award winners," said Eric Hyypa, the organization's president. "When you look at the achievements that these projects represent, making our services relevant and valuable to our communities, you can't help but be inspired for the future."

The awards were the opening event for the 2019 NETA Conference and CPB Public Media Thought Leaders Forum.

The NETA Awards are an annual recognition of public broadcasting's finest work, a tradition established in the 1960s by NETA's precursor, the pioneering Southern Educational Communications Association.

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

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Contact: Ray Ekness, UM Broadcast Media Center director, 406-243-4154, ray.ekness@umontana.edu.

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