March 2019 news releases

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations
March 2019 News

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UM News

UM Researchers Publish New Discoveries on Bacterial Viruses

March 29, 2019

MISSOULA – University of Montana researchers have published new insights in the Journal Science on how bacteria cause infections, which may help with future infection treatments.

Rather than studying bacteria, the researchers studied viruses that infect pathogenic bacteria, known as bacteriophages, as part of a National Institutes of Health grant to help develop a vaccine against bacterial infection.

“Bacteriophages are typically viewed as bacterial parasites,” said Patrick Secor, an assistant professor at UM and a co-author on
the paper. "Because of the increasing prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, people are really getting interested in using bacteriophages (phage therapy) as an alternative to antibiotics to kill pathogenic bacteria."

The bacteriophage used for phage therapy kill their bacterial hosts. Bacteriophages are diverse and considered the most prevalent biological entity on the planet.

"When we looked for bacteriophages that infected the bacterial pathogen Pseudomonas aeruginosa, we found that most strains were infected with bacteriophages called Pf that do not kill their bacterial host," Secor said.

When Secor and researchers at Stanford University looked for Pf bacteriophage in human wounds, they were surprised to find large numbers of the filamentous bacteriophage – an average of one million Pf bacteriophages per swab.

Secor and his group previously had made discoveries on how Pf bacteriophages affect bacterial virulence.

“Eventually, we asked ourselves if it was possible that these Pf bacteriophages interacted directly with the human immune system,” Secor said.

Secor and collaborators at Stanford University discovered that Pf bacteriophages are recognized as viruses by immune cells, and the same cell-surface receptors that recognize cold viruses also
UM Researchers Publish New Discoveries on Bacterial Viruses - UM News - University Of Montana

This was a key finding,” Secor said. “These bacteriophages are inducing an anti-viral response, which is an inappropriate immune response in the face of a bacterial infection.”

The researchers believe this inappropriate immune response allows the bacteria to gain a foothold in wounds or lungs to establish an infection. The researchers hope that their findings will spur new research into developing therapeutic strategies to treat bacterial infections through targeting bacteriophage.

Read the article, “Bacteriophage Trigger Anti-Viral Immunity and Prevent Clearance of Bacterial Infection,” online at https://bit.ly/2FlzHKK.

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Contact: Patrick Secor, assistant professor, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 406-243-2614, patrick.secor@mso.umt.edu.
UM Research Connects Big Data Marketing Tools, Land Conservation

March 28, 2019

MISSOULA – The same data used by digital marketers to sell products can also help inspire conservation behaviors, according to new research from the University of Montana.

In a recent study, “Microtargeting for Conservation,” published in Conservation Biology, UM faculty in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conversation demonstrate how conservation programs can benefit from tools and analyses generally reserved for businesses and political campaigns.

Researchers with UM, Penn State University, Chesapeake Conservancy and the Yuhas Consulting Group created models to study how microtargeting can identify landowners agreeable to installing riparian buffers on their land located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The watershed is home to 18 million people in six states and encompasses cities like Baltimore, Norfolk and Washington, D.C. It is the country’s largest estuary and provides vital habitat for more than 3,600 plant and animal species.

Microtargeting is a marketing technique that uses predictive big data analysis to identify the people most likely to respond positively to particular messages or interventions, and it can aggregate marketing formulas from an
individual’s digital footprint.

“These are the types of data that inform the ads you get on Facebook or Google,” said Alex Metcalf, assistant professor in UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation and the study’s lead author. “We’re taking that same technology and instead of trying to sell people stuff, we’re trying to find people most willing to invest in conservation.”

The researchers created a high-resolution land cover dataset and overlaid it with property records to identify private owners of riparian areas needing restoration. They then developed and evaluated a restoration propensity model using a database of landowners who had conducted restoration in the past and tested to see how well the model predicted future participation.

The results found that the landowners identified by the model were more than twice as likely to have conducted restoration in the past and would likely do so in the future. That data has big impacts for future conversation efforts, according to Metcalf.

“If you are a conservation NGO or government agency conducting outreach, microtargeting can dramatically increase your impact or cut your outreach budget,” Metcalf said. “The marketing tools that we see all around us can be employed to do really good work for conservation agencies and groups. There’s a lot of power there.”

Metcalf and other researchers have used similar social marketing campaigns to assess land-use decisions and aptitude for conservation. The researchers also are exploring this technology for applications related to pressing conservation challenges, including wildlife habitat conservation and public lands access in Montana.

“There is growing recognition that conservation needs frequently surpass the resources we have to invest in them,” Metcalf said. “If we’re going to make progress toward conservation objectives, we have to be smart about where we spend our money, so we have to look for the places that have the highest return on our conservation investment.”

The study is available online at http://bit.ly/2FJxxtp.

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**Contact:** Alex Metcalf, UM W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation assistant professor, 814-574-6128, alex.metcalf@umontana.edu.
UM Culinary Institute, School of Art Collaborate for Tasting Event

March 26, 2019

MISSOULA – Tickets are now on sale for “The Tasting of Big Sky Country,” a special event featuring University of Montana School of Arts ceramicist Ryan Caldwell and the Big Sky Culinary Institute’s Capstone Class on Friday, April 19.

This collaborative project includes Montana-inspired cuisine and pottery. Tickets cost $12, and the event takes place at Missoula College’s Blackfoot Café. The tasting starts at 5 p.m. with Culinary Capstone student creations plated on Caldwell’s interpretive pottery.

Caldwell received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis on ceramics and sculpture from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, and he was awarded the Charles A. and Margaret Pollak Art Purchase Award in 2015. He has been a short-term artist in residence at the Red Lodge Clay Center in Montana and Medalta in Alberta, Canada. His work resides in the art collections of the Mulvane Art Museum at Washburn and the Montana...
Museum of Art & Culture, and he is a Master of Fine Arts candidate at UM. View his work online at https://www.caldwellceramics.com/gallery-1.

The Big Sky Culinary Institute’s graduating class worked to created dishes to reflect the history, landscape and agriculture of Big Sky Country. Each culinary student presented Caldwell with a menu item, and he created a vessel for plating and presentation. These thoughtful creations will be available to see and taste during the event.

Tickets include appetizers and a glass of champagne, with a no-host bar available. Buy tickets at the Missoula College Cashier’s Office or at the Blackfoot Café, River Level of Missoula College, Wednesday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., or call 406-243-7815.

Contact: Jennifer Heggen, marketing/development director, Missoula College UM Big Sky Culinary Institute, 406-243-7909, jennifer.heggen@mso.umt.edu; Ryan Caldwell, UM ceramics graduate student, ryanncaldwellceramics@gmail.com.
UM Family Medicine Residency Program announces class of 2022

March 26, 2019

MISSOULA – After receiving more than 1,000 applications and conducting 125 interviews, the University of Montana’s Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana has announced its 2022 class of incoming residents.

The new class of 10 family physician residents, selected through the national Resident Matching program, will start its three-year training at the beginning of July.

The 2022 class includes:

- Zachary Carlson of **Shevlin, Minnesota**, from Medical College of Wisconsin.
- Grayson Cobb of **Richmond, Virginia**, from Eastern Virginia Medical School.
- Mallory Koula of **Kimberly, Wisconsin**, from Medical College of Wisconsin.
- Michelle Metcalf of **Lafayette, Indiana**, from Indiana University School of Medicine.
- Shannon Rossio of **Carleton, Michigan**, from University of Toledo College of Medicine.
• Patrick Sweeney of Winchester, Kentucky, from Tulane University.
• Kathryn Walicki of Hartland, Michigan, from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.
• Kayla Whitmore of Fairfax, Vermont, from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine.
• Nick Zakovich of Walled Lake, Michigan, from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The resident matching program objectively matches applicants to residencies through a computerized mathematical algorithm, which lines up applicant preferences to available training positions across the United States. This year, the program predicts its largest match in history, exceeding the more than 43,000 applicants who registered for the 2018 match.

“We are thrilled to welcome an outstanding group of future family physicians to western Montana,” said Dr. Rob Stenger, incoming program director for FMRWM.

The mission of FMRWM is to develop family physicians who are compassionate, clinically competent and motivated to serve patients and communities in rural and underserved areas of Montana. Almost three-quarters of the residents practice in Montana, and 80 percent practice in rural and underserved areas.

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

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

For more information visit http://health.umt.edu/fmrwm/.

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Contact: Jessica Tripp, administrative associate, UM Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana, 406-258-4434, jessica.tripp@mso.umt.edu.
Award-winning Broadcaster to Deliver Annual Dean Stone Lecture at UM

March 26, 2019

MISSOULA – In a time when conversations often are minimized to a few words in a text message, the University of Montana School of Journalism will welcome an award-winning journalist as its Dean Stone lecturer to share the importance of meaningful communication.

Celeste Headlee, a 20-year public radio veteran, will present “Ten Ways to Have Better Conversations” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, in the University Center Theater. Her presentation is free and open to the public.

Her TEDx Talk on the same topic has more than 19 million views to date.
Headlee has interviewed hundreds of people from all walks of life in her two-decade career. She has produced “On Second Thought” at Georgia Public Radio and anchored programs, such as “Tell Me More,” “Talk of the Nation,” “All Things Considered” and “Weekend Edition.” She also served as co-host of the national morning news show “The Takeaway” from PRI and WNYC and anchored presidential coverage in 2012 for PBS World Channel.

Through her work, Headlee has learned the true power of conversation and its ability to both bridge gaps or deepen wounds. She is an expert in human nature, reclaiming common humanity and finding well-being. Headlee frequently provides insight and commentary on what is good for all humans and what is bad, focusing on the best research in neural and social science to understand how we relate with one another and can work together in beneficial ways in our workplaces, neighborhoods, communities and homes. As a mixed race journalist of black and Jewish descent, Headlee also speaks candidly about how to converse on race and other difficult subjects.

In addition to her broadcast career, she has written the books “Heard Mentality” and “We Need to Talk: How to Have Conversations That Matter.”

Headlee serves as an advisory board member for Procon.org and the National Conversation Project. She most recently served as co-host for season three of the “Scene on Radio” podcast. Her work and insights have been featured on the TODAY show, as well as Oprah Magazine, Wired Inc., NPR, Time, Essence, Elle, BuzzFeed, Salon, Parade and many more.

Each spring the UM School of Journalism honors its founder, Dean Arthur Stone, and current journalism students with a two-night celebration featuring a guest lecturer, followed by an awards banquet. The annual Dean Stone Awards and Scholarship Banquet offers UM journalism students more than $150,000 in scholarships and awards each year.

Founded in 1914, the School of Journalism is now in its second century of preparing students to think critically, act ethically and communicate effectively. The school recently was named one of the top 10 journalism programs in the country by the Radio Television Digital News Association.

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

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**Contact:** Denise Dowling, interim dean, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-4143, denise.dowling@mso.umt.edu.
Award-winning Broadcaster to Deliver Annual Dean Stone Lecture at UM - UM News - University Of Montana
Northwest Horn Symposium to Draw International Musicians to UM March 29-31

March 25, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Music will host the Northwest Horn Symposium for the first time, featuring internationally and nationally recognized French horn artists in masterclasses, lectures and recitals.

The three-day event will be held Friday through Sunday, March 29-31, in the Music Building. Tickets, which cost $15 for each recital or $125 for the full symposium, are available in the School of Music lobby.

The opening celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday and includes a full recital with featured artist Rachel Childers of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, in collaboration with Barbara Blegen on piano. A pre-recital concert features the UM Horn Studios, the Montana Horn Club and horns from Montana State University, joining together for the first time under the name "The Montana Big Horns."

The Four Hornsmen of the Apocalypse, an internationally acclaimed horn quartet, will perform at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday. Performances balance traditional horn quartet repertoire with music that can only be described as “theatrical horn stunts.” The Palouse Horn Ensemble will play a pre-concert performance.

Leading professional hornists from the geographical Northwest also will perform in recitals at 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The farewell concert at 4 p.m. Sunday features a massed horn ensemble and solo competition winners. Lectures and presentations will be held throughout the symposium.

All recitals and concerts are in the UM School of Music Recital Hall. Tickets can be purchased at the door and are $15 for the general public. The Northwest Horn Society is a registered not-for-profit organization.

For more information, visit http://www.nwhornsociety.org/.

Contact: Zachary Cooper, assistant professor of horn and music theory, UM School of Music, 406-243-6880, zachary.cooper@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana has received a record number of graduate applications in the University's Department of Counseling, for those wanting to pursue careers as clinical mental health or school counselors.

“This year, we've seen about a 20 percent increase in applications, compared to years past,” said Veronica Johnson, UM Department of Counseling chair. “The surge in applications is inspiring and motivating.”

Johnson credits the increase of applicants to greater societal awareness about the role of mental health in maintaining healthy communities and a change in insurance benefits that has created an increased need for therapists.

The rise in applications has decreased the overall acceptance rate to about 25 percent, making for an even more competitive program, Johnson said. The acceptance rate for selected applicants is now 100 percent.

Housed in UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, the department offers master's degrees in clinical mental health counseling and school counseling. The department also offers a doctoral degree in
counselor education and supervision. Bound by standards from the Council for Accreditation and Related Educational Programs, UM must maintain a faculty-to-student ratio of 1-to-10 to sustain a rigorous and quality program. The program is one of two accredited master’s programs in the state, and the only accredited doctoral program.

Johnson said another draw to the department is the program’s ability to model a philosophy of healthy relationships. Doctoral students teach two sections of an undergraduate class on intimate relationships which includes engaging in relationship counseling as part of the curriculum.

“I think what we’re seeing is a successful relationship-oriented program,” Johnson said. “Our faculty are exceptional, and we promote healthy relationships across our program, at all levels, which is fairly unique to our department. Undergraduate students may see the impact of this, which can prompt an interest in graduate coursework.”

Johnson also cited Missoula and Montana’s unique population demographics as a “great place for students to come and practice in a rich clinical setting, or in local schools that host all socioeconomic populations and walks of life.”

Students in the program must undergo a 100-hour practicum and a 600-hour internship, in clinical and school settings across Montana. Johnson said the program has a 100 percent pass rate on the national counselor exam, required for licensure, which qualifies UM students to practice in Montana. Most, if not all students, have job opportunities before graduation, Johnson said.

For more information on UM’s counselor education programs, visit http://coehs.umt.edu/departments/counsed.

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Contact: Veronica Johnson, UM Department of Counseling chair, 406-243-4205, veronica.johnson@mso.umt.edu.
Montana Poll: Fewer Than Half Knew Montana Once Elected a Female to U.S. Congress

March 25, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Big Sky Poll recently launched a new online poll and asked participants, “From what you know, has Montana ever elected a female representative to the U.S. Congress?"

Forty-nine percent of respondents answered correctly – yes. Jeannette Rankin was elected in 1916 as the first female member of Congress.

Each iteration of the Big Sky Poll includes a question about Montana trivia. The Fall 2018 Poll included the question, “Can you tell me the name of the highest natural point in Montana?” Twenty-two percent of respondents answered correctly – Granite Peak. In the Spring 2018 UM Big Sky Poll, respondents were asked, “Can you tell me...
the words displayed on the ribbon of the Montana state seal?” Thirty percent of participants responded correctly with “Oro y Plata,” which is Spanish for “gold and silver.”

“The Big Sky Poll is an applied learning experience for our students to gain insight on Montanan’s perceptions about a host of issues,” said Sara Rinfret, co-director of UM’s Big Sky Poll. “Asking a Montana trivia question in each poll allows us to give back to the deep roots and tradition of our state.”

The Big Sky Poll was conducted online Feb. 21-March 1, with 293 registered voters in the state of Montana. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 5.72 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. Use of poll findings requires attribution to the UM Big Sky Poll.

The poll collects and reports information about Montanans’ perceptions of local, state and federal issues. The Big Sky Poll is led by Rinfret, director of UM’s Master of Public Administration Program, and Justin Angle, UM associate professor of marketing, in conjunction with eight seminar students from UM’s MPA and business analytics programs.

The survey was commissioned with support from the UM Social Science Research Laboratory. The UM Big Sky Poll will be conducted on an ongoing basis, with its next iteration in Fall 2019.

Full results from the poll can be found on the UM Big Sky Poll website at http://umt.edu/bigskypoll.

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**Contact:** Sara Rinfret, chair, UM Department of Public Administration and Policy, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@mso.umt.edu
Montana Poll: Fewer Than Half Knew Montana Once Elected a Female to U.S. Congress - UM News - University Of Montana

UM Junior Named Newman Civic Fellow

March 21, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – With dedication to social change and a solid work ethic, University of Montana junior Daisy Ward is positioning herself to be a future leader. The honors student, double majoring in political science and Spanish, is one of eight college students in Montana and 262 nationwide named a 2019 Newman Civic Fellow.

The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes community-committed students at Campus Compact member institutions who are changemakers and problem-solvers with the potential for public leadership. The yearlong fellowship provides students with training and resources to help them develop strategies for social change while engaging with a national network of student leaders.

“During her time at the University of Montana, Ms. Ward has distinguished herself as a civically engaged individual who is dedicated to promoting lasting social change, both on our campus and within the larger community,” UM President Seth Bodnar wrote in Ward’s nomination letter. “Her unwavering commitment to
public service coupled with strong leadership qualities makes her an ideal candidate for this fellowship."

Ward has a passion for public policy she discovered while attending high school in Pullman, Washington, and she said majoring in political science was an easy choice.

“I like to understand the intricacies of the way systems work, and when it comes to politics and government, that means policy,” she said. “I understand both the specific details and the larger way that things work in the world, and that combination is what makes policy so interesting to me.”

At UM she is one of just two undergraduate students involved in the graduate-level Big Sky Poll, which allows students to conduct public opinion polls in Montana and then analyze the results of the data.

When it comes to social change, Ward says she wants to see accessibility in government, specifically in education. As a Newman Civic Fellow, Ward will focus on local education policy decisions while also continuing her research work. After graduation, she hopes to work in educational programming and policy.

“Equity in public education is so important for social improvement,” she said.

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**Contact:** Kathy Peters, Montana Campus Compact, 406-243-5135, peters@mtcompact.org.
March 21, 2019

MISSOULA – Montana Public Radio News Director Eric Whitney has been named one of 53 Fellows selected to participate in the Editorial Integrity and Leadership Initiative presented by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

The inaugural class will begin the program in April at ASU, led by Julia Wallace, the Cronkite School’s Frank Russell chair and the former editor-in-chief at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

The intensive curriculum will focus on editorial integrity, using active learning strategies to reinforce public media’s unique firewall and statutory obligation to balance, objectivity, accuracy, fairness and transparency. Participants will receive one-on-one coaching from industry leaders.
“I’m very grateful to CPB and the Cronkite School for making this opportunity available,” said Whitney, who works on the University of Montana campus. “It’s often challenging for small newsrooms like ours to find resources for training and professional development. We take our responsibility to safeguard public radio’s editorial integrity seriously and welcome assistance in upholding high standards. I look forward to sharing what I learn with my colleagues.”

“The Fellows will have the opportunity to work with an all-star lineup of newsroom leaders, who are facing the challenges of today’s media landscape and working hard to improve civil discourse in their communities,” Wallace said. “Our program is designed to help strengthen American public media journalism by building the expertise of multimedia editors.”

“We’re proud of Eric’s leadership in our newsroom,” MTPR General Manager Ray Ekness said. “We’re happy that he’s been selected for the training and will be able to bring back ideas to improve our news coverage.”

EILI is funded by a $1 million CPB grant managed by The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at ASU.

“At a time when many news outlets are shrinking, we seek to train more public media editors to lead public media’s growing newsrooms while upholding the highest editorial standards,” said Kathy Merritt, CPB senior vice president for journalism and radio. “Skilled, effective editors are vital to producing content that tackles issues of importance to our communities and informs our country’s civil discourse.”

The EILI Fellows come from 34 states and Washington, D.C. They work in radio and television stations of all sizes and serve rural and urban communities. They include current editors of journalism collaborations, producers of local and national programs, station newsroom leaders, investigative journalists and up-and-coming reporters who show great potential for future impact in public media.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government’s investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than
1,500 locally owned and operated public television and radio stations nationwide. CPB also is the largest single source of funding for research, technology and program development for public radio, television and related online services.

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.

###

Contact: Eric Whitney, MTPR news director, 406-243-4075, eric.whitney@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s new online Big Sky Poll found that 51 percent of registered Montana voters support legalizing marijuana, while 37 percent oppose legalization. Eighty percent of Democrats support legalization, along with 33 percent of Republicans.

When asked, “Do you think marijuana should be legalized in Montana?” responses differed by age. Respondents ages 18-26 and 27-46 showed strong support for legalization, with 67 percent and 64 percent of the age groups answering “yes,” respectively. Fifty-six percent of respondents aged 47-66 support legalization, while 29 percent of voters 67 and older support legalization in Montana.

The Big Sky Poll was conducted online between Feb. 21 and March 1 with 293 registered voters in the state of Montana. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 5.72 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.
Use of poll findings requires attribution to the UM Big Sky Poll.

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

The survey was commissioned with support from the UM Social Science Research Laboratory. The UM Big Sky Poll will be conducted on an ongoing basis, with its next iteration in fall 2019.

Full results from the poll can be found on the UM Big Sky Poll website at http://umt.edu/bigskypoll.

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Full Results:

Question: Do you think marijuana should be legalized in Montana?

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Disclaimer: All values have been rounded, which may cause some of the totals to not equal 100 percent.

Contact: Sara Rinfret, chair, UM Department of Public Administration and Policy, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA — As warmer spring days awaken the green across Montana, the Irish Studies Program at the University of Montana has planned a raffle and series of lectures.

The raffle to support the Irish Studies Program is underway and will award a trip for two to Ireland, a $1,500 gas voucher and a $500 gift card. The prize drawings will take place Sunday, March 31, at the Stone of Accord in Missoula.

In Missoula, the tickets are available at Rockin’ Rudy’s, the Stone of Accord, the Meagher Bar and all Noon’s stores. Tickets also will be sold at Cavanaugh’s County Celtic in Butte, as well as Bert and Ernie’s and Planet Gyros in Helena.

Each ticket costs $5 or $25 for a book of six. For more information visit http://hs.umt.edu/friends-irish-studies/.

Three lectures also are planned for April.
Professor Patrick Griffin, the Madden-Hennebry Professor of Irish-American Studies and director of Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, will deliver a lecture titled “The Irish Brigade and Age of Revolution: The Story of a Flag” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, in the UM Music Building Recital Hall in Missoula.

The lecture will discuss the life of Thomas Francis Meagher, an Irish rebel who raised and led the Irish Brigade as a general during the U.S. Civil War, became acting governor of Montana Territory and died under mysterious circumstances at Fort Benton in 1867. Meagher also designed the Irish tricolor flag of the Irish Republic.

Madden-Hennebry also will present “The Deep History of the Fighting Irish” at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 4, at the Butte-Silver Bow Archives in Butte.

Both lectures are free and open to the public. They are part of the Hesburgh Lecture Series, which was inspired by Rev. Ted Hesburgh to bring Notre Dame faculty to local communities. The Missoula talk is sponsored by the Friends of Irish Studies, the Notre Dame Club of Western Montana the Irish Government Emigrant Support Program.

The final lecture, “Interpreting Brexit,” will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room. Dr. Katie Ní Loinsigh (Lynch) will reveal discussions in the Irish language community surrounding the choice of name that most accurately described the decision of Britain to leave the European Union. Trying to find a precise name demanded a deeper examination of the issues involved and produced some very insightful, if not controversial, observations.

Ní Loinsigh will deliver the same lecture at noon Wednesday, April 10, in the Butte-Silver Bow Archives. Both lectures are free and open to the public.

Ní Loinsigh was an Irish language and law exchange student from University College, Cork, who studied law at UM for a semester and interned as an Irish language instructor with Irish Studies. She was one of the first two students from Cork to use internships offered by Montana Judges Donald Molloy and Jeremiah Lynch to intern in the federal judicial system. She spent a semester in the courts and a further two months as an intern with Missoula’s Garlington, Lohn and Robinson law firm.

###

**Contact:** Traolach Ó Riordáin, UM director of Irish Studies, 406-544-0311, traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu
MISSOULA — The University of Montana ranks No. 6 among medium-sized schools on the Peace Corps’ 2019 list of top volunteer-producing colleges and universities. Currently 31 UM alumni volunteer in countries around the world, including Paraguay, Morocco, Mozambique and Mongolia.

“We have seen time and again that the colleges and universities that produce the most Peace Corps volunteers focus on cultivating global citizens in addition to promoting scholarship,” said Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen. “I am proud that so many graduates of these esteemed institutions leverage their educations to make the world a better place. They bring critical skills to communities around the world and gain hands-on, life-changing experience along the way.”

Since the Peace Corps’ founding in 1961, more than 880 alumni from UM have served abroad as volunteers. View an interactive map that shows where UM alumni currently are serving.
The Peace Corps ranks its top volunteer-producing colleges and universities annually according to student body size. View the complete 2019 rankings of the top 25 schools in each category.

For more information about volunteering with the Peace Corps, call UM Peace Corps Representative Kevin Deitle at 406-243-2839 or email peacecorps@umontana.edu.

Contact: Kevin Deitle, UM Peace Corps campus representative, 406-243-2022, peacecorps@umontana.edu.
UM President Highlights Progress in Midyear Update

March 20, 2019

MISSOULA – University of Montana President Seth Bodnar was upbeat during two presentations of his midyear campus update on March 19, declaring the University is on the right path.

Bodnar has served as UM’s 19th president for just over a year. He said campus leaders and many across campus have worked tirelessly to set the stage for future success at UM.

“Because here’s the thing about
change and progress – it doesn’t happen overnight,” Bodnar said. “You don’t just flip a switch and suddenly things turn around. That’s not the way the world works. As Bill Gates and others have said, ‘Most people overestimate what they can do in one year and underestimate what they can do in 10 years.’

“That sentiment is a very important one for our community right now,” he continued. “The ones who are successful are those who focus on making steady, consistent, tangible progress, day after day, over a sustained period of time. Those are the people who look back after 10 years and are amazed at what they achieved. And the way you get there is by breaking down the challenges into their component parts and tackling them bit by bit.

“There is no magic to this, just persistent discipline,” Bodnar said. “I am confident we are going to succeed because we have made and continue to make deliberate, smart, incremental progress toward stability. We are on that path.”

Bodnar highlighted several recent campus accomplishments as indicators of positive progress. Among those were:

- UM student-athletes earned an average term GPA of 3.19, the highest average in the history of Grizzly Athletics. Bodnar said he was more excited by this achievement than the men’s basketball team making the NCAA Tournament two years in a row, though he also lauded that on-court excellence.

- A UM team landed a Keck Foundation Grant to help UM faculty members in neuroscience, literature, psychology, philosophy and languages shape a new undergraduate curriculum to help students understand the fast-evolving field of brain science.
UM President Highlights Progress in Midyear Update - UM News - University Of Montana


Bodnar said UM provides a high-quality, world-class education that accessible people from all starting points and walks of life. He said the experience of alumna Land “is a story of transformation.”

The president spoke to the five Priorities for Action his team has been working on to move UM on its path toward a collectively developed vision. They are:

- Place student success at the center of all we do.
- Drive excellence and innovation in teaching, learning and research.
- Embody the principle of “mission first, people always.”
- Partner with place.
- Proudly tell the UM story.

Bodnar said student success priority has as its goals to help student persist and graduate at higher rates, enjoy options that allow for access and flexibility, and have the appropriate support – especially for historically underserved groups.

He said UM has a goal to provide a “tomorrow-proof” education, one that best prepares students – regardless of discipline – for careers of adaption and change.

Summer enrollment numbers again look strong with year, with 300 more students registered for summer courses this summer than last year’s record-setting summer enrollment. However, the president tempered expectations in regards to the overall enrollment situation.

“We can’t expect our enrollment picture to change overnight,” Bodnar said. “We had some major issues to address. And while I’m excited about where we’re headed, it’s going to take a few years to fully realize the fruits of this labor,” he said.

Bodnar concluded the update with a positive look forward. “We will steadily and persistently write the exciting next chapter for this incredible University,” he said. “It is my honor to be with you in this important work.”


###

**Contact:** Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-5608, paula.short@mso.umt.edu
MISSOULA – A Montana native who stewarded peaceful relations with Russia will deliver the final installment of the 2018-19 University of Montana President’s Lecture Series.

Michael McFaul, Stanford professor, former U.S. ambassador to Russia and best-selling author on advancing democracy abroad, will present “From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin’s Russia” at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10 at the Wilma in downtown Missoula. The talk is the Lucile Speer Memorial
McFaul also will present that same day “U.S. Foreign Policy in the Trump Era” at 3:30 p.m. in the UC Theater. Both events are free and open to the public. Doors will open an hour before each event.

“It’s an honor to welcome an accomplished Montana native back home to deliver this year’s Lucile Speer Memorial Lecture,” said Rob Saldin, coordinator for the lecture series and UM political science professor. “Ambassador McFaul’s visit offers our community a unique opportunity to hear about the relationship between the U.S. and Russia from America's former top diplomat in Moscow.”

While in Missoula, the ambassador also will engage with a wide variety of audiences, including a visit to an honors history class at Hellgate High School taught by Patricia Hixson.

An accomplished scholar of great power relations on the international stage, McFaul served five years as special assistant to President Barack Obama and later as senior director for Russian and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council at the White House. From 2012 to 2014, McFaul was posted in Moscow, where he aided American foreign policy as the U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation.

Currently holding several academic positions at Stanford University, McFaul is the Ken Olivier and Angela Nomellini Professor of International Studies in Political Science, director and Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and the Peter and Helen Bing Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. McFaul also has served as the Distinguished Mingde Faculty Fellow at the Stanford Center at Peking University in Beijing, China.

His memoir, “From Cold War to Hot Peace: An American Ambassador in Putin’s Russia” was a New York Times best-seller. McFaul’s earlier works include, “Advancing Democracy Abroad: Why We Should, How We Can,” “Transitions To Democracy: A Comparative Perspective,” “Power and Purpose: American Policy toward Russia after the Cold War” and “Russia’s Unfinished Revolution: Political Change from Gorbachev to Putin.”
A regular contributing columnist to The Washington Post, McFaul also is an analyst for NBC News. His current research includes great power relations between China, Russia and the United States and the relationship between democracy and development.

McFaul received his bachelor's degree in international relations and Slavic languages and his master's degree in Soviet and East European studies, both from Stanford University. As a Rhodes Scholar, he completed his doctorate in international relations at Oxford University in 1991.

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.

Contact: Office of the President, Office of the President, 406-243-2311, prestalk@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Four University of Montana School of Journalism students recently won five awards in national journalism competitions that collectively draw more than 1,000 entries from over 400 universities.

Three UM students placed in the top 10 of the William Randolph Hearst Foundation’s Hearst Journalism Awards Program, and two students placed in the top five of the Broadcast Education Association’s Festival of Media Arts competition. Both programs give scholarships to award winners.

Montana Kaimin editor-in-chief Matt Neuman, from Glens Falls, New York, won third place in the Hearst Journalism Awards Program in enterprise reporting for his story “In the Red: How UM dining’s upscale restaurant poured nearly $1 million down the drain.”

“While sometimes it is hard to write stories about my own university, I think it’s important to shine a light on issues so they can be fixed,” Neuman said. “I appreciate all of the university officials who let me use this place as a testing
ground for real-world reporting."

UM School of Journalism 2018 graduate Rikki Devlin, of Sacramento, California, took fifth place in the multimedia category of the Hearst awards for her multimedia work last spring for the Native News project. She won for “The Person Not the Crime: One Woman’s Journey to Healing” as part of the series “Beyond Bars: Flathead Public Defenders Provide Lasting Solutions to Incarceration.”

Meanwhile, journalism student Eli Imadali from Chandler, Arizona, won sixth place in the Hearst Journalism Awards Program for his stories for UM’s student radio station, KBGA 89.9 FM. Although Imadali is primarily a photojournalist, he said audio is another way to effectively tell immersive stories. Imadali submitted stories about Imagine Nation Brewing’s beer celebrating Missoula refugees and another about keeping kosher in Missoula. He said he gravitated to the “Kosher in Missoula” story after the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting that left 11 dead.

“Looking back at it, this story and one other story were my ways of dealing with it – getting back in touch with some of my Jewish roots that I haven’t thought about in a while,” Imadali said.

The Hearst Journalism Awards are open to undergraduate students at accredited journalism programs from 104 universities.

Halisia Hubbard, a senior journalism and fine arts double major from Bigfork, won third place in the Broadcast Education Association competition for radio feature reporting for her piece “How Willard Became Willard,” a semester-long podcast project that covered Missoula’s alternative high school. She said it was encouraging to win the award because she had been working hard to find her journalistic voice.

“I owe a huge thanks to Jule Banville who has been my biggest cheerleader in the journalism school and has stuck her neck out for me many, many times,” Hubbard said.

In addition to her Hearst win, Devlin also won third place in the BEA competition for radio hard news reporting for her story “Missing Native Women.” Devlin said Ivy McDonald, an activist for missing and murdered Indigenous women, was her inspiration for the story, as well as UM School of Journalism’s capstone class, Native News.

“Native News gave me a platform to meet the people involved and the proper experience to tell this story and tell it respectfully,” Devlin said.

Devlin now works at IDEO, a global design company in San Francisco.

The BEA’s Festival of Media Arts competition brings in more than 1,000 entries each year from more than 300 schools, according to the organization.

###

Contact: Denise Dowling, interim dean, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-4143, denise.dowling@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana Big Sky Poll recently conducted its first-ever online poll. When asked to share views on the performance of their elected officials, the responses of 293 registered Montana voters were mixed.

Montanans were asked to rate the job performances of President Donald Trump, Sen. Jon Tester, Sen. Steve Daines, Rep. Greg Gianforte, the U.S. Congress, Gov. Steve Bullock, and the Montana Legislature. Participants were asked to rate them as excellent, good, fair or poor.

Twenty-nine percent of registered voters think Trump is doing an excellent job, while 47 percent think he is doing a poor job. Fifty-nine percent of Republicans polled think the president is doing an excellent job, compared to 92 percent of Democrats polled who think he is doing a poor job.
Voters were split on their views of Tester, with 29 percent responding that he is doing an excellent job and 33 percent responding they think he is doing a poor job.

Nineteen percent of participants rated Daines’ job performance as excellent, and 23 percent rated it as poor.

Fifteen percent of Montana voters surveyed agree Gianforte is doing an excellent job, compared to 38 percent who think he is doing a poor job.

Three percent of voters rated the U.S. Congress as doing an excellent job, and 46 percent rated Congress as doing a poor job.

Montanans’ view of Bullock is evenly split, with 21 percent saying he is doing an excellent job and 21 percent saying he is doing a poor job.

Four percent think the Montana Legislature is doing an excellent job, while 12 percent think they are doing a poor job. Forty-one percent of voters selected good, and 43 percent responded with fair.

The Big Sky Poll was conducted online Feb. 21 through March 1, with 293 registered voters in the state of Montana. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 5.72 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. Use of poll findings requires attribution to the UM Big Sky Poll.

The poll collects and reports information about Montanans’ perceptions of local, state and federal issues. The Big Sky Poll is led by Sara Rinfret, director of UM’s Master of Public Administration Program, and Justin Angle, UM associate professor of marketing, in conjunction with eight seminar students from UM’s MPA and business analytics programs.

The survey was commissioned with support from the UM Social Science Research Laboratory. The UM Big Sky Poll will be conducted on an ongoing basis, with its next iteration in fall 2019.

Full results from the poll can be found on the UM Big Sky Poll website at http://umt.edu/bigskypoll.

Full Results:

Disclaimer: Spring 2018 and fall 2018 were conducted via telephone survey. Spring 2019 was conducted online.

Table 1: Approval Ratings Over Time

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<th></th>
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<tr>
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<td>Daines</td>
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<td>Gianforte</td>
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<td>Bullock</td>
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<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montana Legislature</td>
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<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Ex.</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Ex.</th>
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<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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<td>23%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tester</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<td>26%</td>
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<td>22%</td>
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<td>26%</td>
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<td>Bullock</td>
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<td>4%</td>
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Table 2: Approval Ratings – President Trump

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<th>Rural</th>
<th>Dem.</th>
<th>Rep.</th>
<th>Ind.</th>
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<tr>
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<td>27.0%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
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<td>58.7%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
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<td>Good</td>
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<td>17.2%</td>
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<td>2.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
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<td>8.2%</td>
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<th>27 to 46</th>
<th>47 to 66</th>
<th>67 or older</th>
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<td>12.5%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good</td>
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Table 3: Approval Ratings – Sen. Tester

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<td>Excellent</td>
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<td>Excellent</td>
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<th>Associate's Degree</th>
<th>Bachelor's Degree</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Overall Sample</th>
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<th>Man (Male)</th>
<th>Urban</th>
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### Table 5: Approval Ratings – Rep. Gianforte

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<td>14.9%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>43.8%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
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<td>21.9%</td>
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### Table 6: Approval Ratings – U.S. Congress

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<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
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### Table 7: Approval Ratings – Gov. Bullock
Table 8: Approval Ratings – Montana Legislature

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<th>Ind.</th>
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### Sample (Female) (Male)

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### Age

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<tr>
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### Education

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<td>4.9%</td>
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</table>

**Contact:** Sara Rinfret, director, UM Master of Public Administration program, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@mso.umt.edu
Noted Sustainability Scientist Nancy Grimm to Lecture at UM

March 18, 2019

MISSOULA – A renowned and prolific sustainability scientist, Nancy Grimm, will present the spring semester “Lecture at the Nexus” series at the University of Montana.

Grimm will deliver “Climate Change, Disturbance and Extreme Events: How Will Cities Respond?” at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, in Room 204 of the James E. Todd Building. Following the lecture, a reception will be held on the second-floor foyer. Both events are free and open to the public.

From noon to 1 p.m. in the Todd Building Room 203, Grimm also will participate in a forum with a UM faculty panel titled “Science & Practice: Water & Resilience.” Panelists include Dr. Lisa Eby, associate professor in UM’s Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences, and Dr. Brian Chaffin and Dr. Alex Metcalf, both assistant professors in the University’s Department of Society and Conservation.

The “Lecture at the Nexus” series is hosted by UM BRIDGES, an interdisciplinary graduate training program that prepares future leaders to advance science at the nexus of water, energy and food systems. Highlighting the critical interactions between science and sustainable solutions, Grimm’s visit is co-sponsored by the University’s Office of
Noted Sustainability Scientist Nancy Grimm to Lecture at UM - UM News - University Of Montana

Research and Scholarship, the Flathead Lake Biological Station and the Office of the Provost.

“We are excited that Dr. Grimm is coming to speak at UM,” said UM BRIDGES Program Coordinator Alisa Wade. “She has numerous awards recognizing her substantial contributions to understanding both urban and natural water systems.”

Grimm is an ecosystem ecologist who studies the interactions of climate change, human activities and urban and stream ecosystems. She is the Virginia M. Ullman Professor of Ecology in the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University, where she is also the Senior Sustainability Scientist in the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability.

She co-directs the Urban Resilience to Extremes Sustainability Research Network and works with cities to co-produce visions of resilient and sustainable futures. Grimm is a past-president and Fellow of the Ecological Society of America and a Fellow of the American Association of the Advancement of Science, Society for Freshwater Science, and American Geophysical Union. She also serves as an editor for the journal Earth’s Future, is an editorial adviser for Ecohydrology and Urban Ecology, and is an associate editor for Frontiers in Built Environment: Urban Science.

For more information on UM BRIDGES, visit http://www.umt.edu/bridges/, or find the group on Twitter at @WEFNexusUM.

Contact: Alisa Wade, UM conservation scientist, UM BRIDGES program coordinator, 406-529-9722, alisa.wade@umontana.edu.
Noted Sustainability Scientist Nancy Grimm to Lecture at UM - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – The University of Montana hosted its annual John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge on March 8 for an enthusiastic crowd in the Music Recital Hall. The business competition, presented by UM’s Blackstone LaunchPad and College of Business, featured a dozen contestants chosen from 25 applicants, all competing for cash prizes totaling $50,000.

UM and Montana State University competitors pitched...
business ideas to more than 50 judges representing Montana’s elite business community.

The winning top four teams were:

**The Ant Network**: The overall winner of the competition and the top prize of $15,000 went to the Bozeman team The Ant Network. Team members Miles Maxcer, Ben Schwartz, Thomas Stanton and Elle Olstyzn are passionate about using The Ant Network platform to address the growing challenges associated with environmental change. The Ant Network is a communication platform that uses media, exhibits and educational experiences to promote conservation, improve science literacy and encourage exploration of the natural world.

The Ant Network team also won the “Intent to Launch” $1,000 award. Maxcer, The Ant Network’s lead spokesman during the competition, also won the $1,000 “Brandon Speth Award for Passion, Poise and Charisma.”

**May West Milkweed**: Bozeman native Alayna Rasile also had a great day with her business, May West Milkweed, winning over both the crowd and the judges and leaving with a total of $12,000 through four different awards: second place overall, the “Manufactured Product Award,” “Best Elevator Pitch” and the “People’s Choice Award” for $7,500, $1,000, $3,500 and $3,500, respectively. Her company uses the milkweed plant to manufacture winter jackets in a renewable and sustainable manner. Besides being unique in the winter jacket market, using milkweed to produce jackets also benefits the monarch butterfly, which is highly dependent on milkweed habitat.

**Kubed**: Coming in at third place was Sophia Koopmeiners and Serena Gossack from Bozeman with their kale, chia seed and coconut smoothie additive that allows consumers to give themselves an easy, healthy boost. In addition to the $5,000 third-place prize, Kubed won the prestigious $1,500 “Athena Award” recognizing the team with the most dynamic female competitor who embodies leadership, drive, passion and accomplishment.

**Sellout Inc.**: Sellout Inc., also from Bozeman, took fourth place and went home with $2,500. Sellout Inc. is an online ticketing platform attempting to disrupt the event ticketing market through its event organizer-focused platform that offers features to prevent scalping and fraud. Co-founders Joel Martin, Henry Vinson and Sam Heutmaker are excited about the future of the platform and happy with the feedback from audience members, as
Sellout’s platform was used to sell tickets to the event.

UM's Patrick Berens won the “Most Innovative” $1,000 award with his online insurance broker software that allows consumers to compare and apply for health insurance policies in significantly less time and hassle. The award recognizes the most innovative team that leverages cloud, wireless, big data and analytics, or AI technologies. Berens also will have the opportunity to work directly with Blackfoot Telecommunication’s C2M program, which helps connect entrepreneurs with resources and capital.

Student teams that didn’t place in the top four or receive a secondary award each took home $1,000 and include Richard Mittens and Dominique Nault, Cultivated by Native Montana; Kassi Strong, Peak Retreats; Issac Maier and Clay Kellinger, Weaver Web Solutions; Thomas Wartick and Mary Weikum, Bits & Brews; Cade Ellis, CubiEZ; Taylor Margot, Scry Chat Inc.; and Takamasa Kagiyama, Key to the Mountain. Read about these teams at https://news.umt.edu/2019/02/021519john.php.

Blackstone LaunchPad at UM is an entrepreneurship center for students, alumni, faculty and staff. The organization offers free services to assist entrepreneurs in turning their ideas, skills and passions into real-world businesses and nonprofit organizations through individualized coaching and venture creation support.

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Contact: Paul Gladen, director, Blackstone LaunchPad at UM, 406-396-3534, paul.gladen@umontana.edu.
UM News

March 14, 2019

MISSOULA – When the Cognizant ATG Missoula Solutions Center recently opened its new office in Missoula’s Old Sawmill District, the University of Montana also had reason to celebrate.

Advanced Technology Group is a tech company with strong Montana roots that provides customer-
revenue-management consulting and implementation services focused on the Salesforce platform. In 2018, ATG was acquired by Cognizant, one of the world’s leading professional services companies – ranked No. 195 in Fortune Magazine’s list of largest corporations in terms of revenue.

On March 13, Cognizant expanded its Missoula operations by opening the new 15,700-square-foot solutions center. Dignitaries were on hand to celebrate, including Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, Missoula Mayor John Engen, UM President Seth Bodnar and Debasish Chatterjee, Cognizant executive vice president and president for global delivery, digital systems and technology.

The new center currently houses 90 employees, and many of those are UM graduates. Bodnar noted that of the 175 workers Cognizant employs in Montana, 100 are UM graduates. He also stressed the importance of building pathways to employment between the University and successful companies like Cognizant.

"Today’s an exciting start of a new chapter as we welcome Cognizant – a global company – as it makes a bet not just on ATG, not just on Missoula, not just on Montana but also on the University of Montana," Bodnar said. "We’re very excited about the emerging partnerships that will benefit our students and the wider community."

During the opening event, Cognizant announced a new training program in partnership with UM’s Missoula College. The 12-week program prepares students for technology consulting roles by offering specialized business and technical courses, including systems analysis and design, data analytics, project management, information infrastructures, and Salesforce cloud platforms and technologies.

Students who successfully complete the Missoula College program can apply for open positions at the Cognizant ATG Missoula Solution Center.

Additionally, Cognizant announced a $25,000 grant to UM’s spectrUM Discovery Area, which inspires young Montanans to pursue higher education and explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The program has been at the center of ATG’s philanthropy mission in Missoula since 2014.
“We’re honored and delighted that Cognizant ATG has chosen to invest so generously in spectrUM’s efforts to put Montana K-12 students on the fast track to higher education and fulfilling careers,” said Jessie Herbert-Meny, spectrUM associate director. “This grant will help ensure that every child in our community, as well as in rural and tribal communities across the region, can access inspirational role models and hands-on STEM experiences.”

Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-5608, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
UM News

Eight Montana Students Named Newman Civic Fellows

March 14, 2019

MISSOULA – Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) has named eight Montana college students Newman Civic Fellows. They join a national cohort of 262 Fellows named across the nation.

MTCC is a statewide higher education network of 18 Montana colleges and universities headquartered at the University of Montana working to advance the public purposes of higher education.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a one-year fellowship for community-committed college students from more than 1,000 Campus Compact member institutions. The fellowship honors the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact’s founders, who was a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education.

In the spirit of Newman’s leadership, Campus Compact member...
presidents and chancellors in Montana nominated a student from their institution who has demonstrated a capacity for leadership and an investment in finding solutions to challenges facing communities in Montana and throughout the world.

Montana’s 2019 Newman Civic Fellows are:

- **Grace Cady, Flathead Valley Community College**, Associate of Science, class of 2019.
- **Julius Scott, Great Falls College Montana State University**, computer science/programming, class of 2022.
- **Jerico Cummings, Montana State University**, sociology major and Native American studies minor, class of 2020.
- **McKenna Savage, Montana Technological University**, electrical engineering, class of 2022.
- **Daisy Ward, University of Montana**, political science and Spanish, class of 2020.
- **Adrianna Pittman, University of Montana Western**, secondary education, mathematics and Bachelor of Broad Field Science Secondary Education; class of 2023.

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities that emphasize personal, professional and civic growth. Each year, Fellows are invited to a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate. The fellowship also
Eight Montana Students Named Newman Civic Fellows - UM News - University Of Montana

provides Fellows with pathways to apply for exclusive scholarship and postgraduate opportunities.

“We are proud to recognize each of these extraordinary student leaders and thrilled to have the opportunity to engage with them,” said Campus Compact President Andrew Seligsohn. “The stories of this year’s Newman Civic Fellows make clear that they are committed to finding solutions to pressing problems in their communities and beyond. That is what Campus Compact is about, and it’s what our country and our world desperately need.”

The Newman Civic Fellowship is supported by the KPMG Foundation and Newman’s Own Foundation. Learn more at http://bit.ly/2TL4237.

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About Montana Campus Compact:

Montana Campus Compact advances the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students on civic and social responsibility. The organization is one of 35 State Affiliates of Campus Compact, a national coalition of 1,000-plus colleges and universities representing over 6 million students who are dedicated to participating in community service, civic engagement and service-learning in higher education. The current membership includes Montana’s two-year, four-year, public, private, tribal and community colleges and universities, as well as a network office located at the University of Montana in Missoula.

Contact: Kathy Peters, Montana Campus Compact, 406-243-5135, peters@mtcompact.org.
UM Study Suggests Climate Change Limits Forest Recovery After Wildfires

MISSOULA – New University of Montana research suggests climate change makes it increasingly difficult for tree seedlings to regenerate following wildfires in low-elevation forests, which could contribute to abrupt forest loss.

The study, “Wildfires and Climate Change Push Low-elevation...”

March 12, 2019

Kimberley Davis, a postdoctoral research associate in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation at UM, and her co-authors examined the relationship between annual climate and post-fire regeneration of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir in low-elevation forests of western North America.

"Forests in the western U.S. are increasingly affected by both climate change and wildfires," said Davis, the study's lead author. "The ability of forests to recover following wildfire depends on annual climate conditions, because tree seedlings are particularly vulnerable to hot and dry weather. We wanted to identify the specific conditions necessary for post-fire tree regeneration to better understand how climate change has been affecting forests through time."

The authors used tree rings to determine establishment dates of more than 2,800 trees that regenerated after fires in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and New Mexico between 1988 and 2015. Annual tree regeneration rates were much lower when seasonal climate conditions, including temperature, humidity and soil moisture, crossed specific threshold values.

Over the past 20 years, climate conditions have crossed these thresholds at the majority of study sites, leading to abrupt declines in how often annual conditions are suitable for tree regeneration. The study results highlight how future fires in similar sites may catalyze transitions from forest to non-forest ecosystems.

"Adult trees can survive in warmer and drier conditions than seedlings, and our study found that some low-elevation areas that are currently forested no longer have climate conditions that are suitable for tree regeneration," Davis said. "In these areas, high-severity fire may lead to ecosystem transitions from forests to grasslands or shrublands."
“It is important to understand how climate change and wildfires will affect tree regeneration because forests are important economically, ecologically and culturally,” she said. “Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir are two of the most dominant tree species in the western U.S., and they are critical for the regional forestry industry. Forests also contain high levels of biodiversity and provide a variety of ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration and water regulation and supply. Additionally, people love to recreate in forests, which is an increasingly important part of the economy in western states.”

Other UM co-authors include Solomon Dobrowski, Philip Higuera, Anna Sala and Marco Maneta. Additional co-authors include researchers from the U.S. Forest Service; the University of Colorado, Boulder; and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute.

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**Contact:** Kimberley Davis, UM W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation postdoctoral research associate, 401-787-7456, kimberley.davis@umontana.edu; Philip Higuera, UM associate professor of fire ecology, 406-243-6337, philip.higuera@umontana.edu; Solomon Dobrowski, UM professor of landscape ecology, 406-243-6068, solomon.dobrowski@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s We Are Montana in the Classroom initiative and Corvallis Primary School will collaborate on a career exploration day for the school’s second-graders from 12:30 to 2:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 12.

Co-organized by We Are Montana in the Classroom and Corvallis School District, the event is designed to engage students with career pathways in their community – particularly in high-priority workforce sectors such as manufacturing, small business, health care and forestry/environmental management.

The University’s Broader Impact Group’s Bitterroot STEM Advisory Board helped produce the event, which is part of a collective-impact initiative powered by the Martin Family Foundation.

Participating career role models are:

- Jen Bush on nursing from Marcus Daly Hospital.
- Patrick Hanley on veterinary science from Rocky Mountain Labs.
Eric Hanssen on engineering from Rocky Mountain Labs.
Beth Fischer and intern Mikayla Pulliman on microscopy from Rocky Mountain Labs.
Tregei Starr on chemical engineering from Rocky Mountain Labs.
Sarah Anzick and intern Brian Healy on genetics from Rocky Mountain Labs.

Students will rotate through stations, where role models will lead activities and demonstrations and share stories from their career and educational experiences.

“When children get to experience various careers, especially at the second-grade level, they can pick up perspectives, future goals and good character qualities that could last a lifetime,” said Kristina Berger, technology education director for Corvallis School District and co-coordinator for the event. “Experiencing positive role models in a career fair atmosphere is extremely important to plant the seed that there is no limit to what they can achieve.”

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. The program’s role models visit K-12 schools, libraries, museums, free meal sites and community events throughout Missoula, the Bitterroot and the Flathead Reservation.

The Second-Grade Corvallis Career Day is one programming highlight of a year-round, collective impact effort powered by the Martin Family Foundation and the Jane S. Heman Foundation to inspire K-12 students about educational and career pathways in their community. Visit https://biginthebitterroot.org/ for more information.

Contact: Amanda Duley, spectrUM staff scientist, 406-728-7836, amanda.duley@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Missoula College University of Montana students can connect with potential employers at the 2019 Industrial Technology Career Fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 20.

The fair, organized by UM’s Office of Career Services, will take place at the Missoula College West Campus, located at 2795 37th Ave. It is free and open to all current UM students, prospective students and alumni.

At the career fair, participants can meet and network with employers to learn about internships, summer and part-time employment, and post-graduation full-time employment opportunities.

The Industrial Technology Career Fair aims to support the mission of the Missoula College Department of Industrial Technology by connecting its students with employers in need of skilled workers.

“The job of Missoula College Industrial Technology programs is to produce workers who can be productive contributors to our society, with the capacity for lifelong learning,” said Zach Reddig, chair of the Department of Industrial Technology. “As a group, we are working to meet the regional workforce needs.”
Any business or organization seeking to employ students trained in the Missoula College programs of diesel technology, heavy equipment operation, precision machine technology, sustainable construction technology and welding are encouraged to attend.

For more information or registration details, call Mani Stubbs, UM Office of Career Services career counselor, at 406-243-6830 or email manuel.stubbs@mso.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Mani Stubbs, career counselor, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-6830, manuel.stubbs@mso.umt.edu; Emily Johnson, recruiting coordinator, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-2239, emily1.johnson@mso.umt.edu.
UM Creates New Department of Public Administration and Policy

March 08, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana just launched its Department of Public Administration and Policy, a new academic unit located in the Alexander Blewett III School of Law’s Max S. Baucus Institute. The Montana University System Board of Regents finalized the creation of the new department with a vote on Friday, March 8.

The DPAP provides a new home and platform for increased enrollment for UM’s Master in Public Administration program, which includes three graduate degree tracks and a public administration certificate, nonprofit certificate and nonprofit minor. The MPA program prepares pre-career and mid-career professionals for dynamic and impactful work in the public and nonprofit sectors by developing a core set of skills, scholarly knowledge and applied and basic research.

Housing DPAP in the Baucus Institute provides unique learning experiences for students and faculty, including the Baucus Leaders Program, the Summer Indian Law Program, study abroad in China and the Public Service Academy.

The MPA program has a long history with the Blewett School of Law, including a joint MPA/JD degree, and this new
UM Creates New Department of Public Administration and Policy

UM creates new Department of Public Administration and Policy, generating new opportunities for students.

“The addition of this department to the institute is a perfect complement to our existing programs,” said Sam Panarella, director of the Max S. Baucus Institute. “It’s also a fitting tribute to the passion for public service personified by Max’s 40-year-plus career as a distinguished public servant.”

UM students participating in DPAP’s programming will be part of a nationally unique model for the integration of law, policy and public service, according to Sara Rinfret, DPAP chair and MPA director. The creation of the new program marks an important moment in the University’s history.

For more information about the UM’s MPA program, visit https://www.umt.edu/law/mpa/default.php.

Contact: Sara Rinfret, UM Master in Public Administration Program director, 406-243-4702, sara.rinfret@umontana.edu; Sara Kryder, marketing director, UM Alexander Blewett III School of Law, 406-243-5730, sara.kryder@umontana.edu.
UM to Present Two Honorary Doctorates in May

March 08, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will confer two Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters during its May 4 Commencement exercises.

The degrees will go to Denise Juneau, the Montana superintendent of public instruction from 2009 to 2017, and Dr. William “Bill” Reynolds, a beloved doctor who served the Missoula area for four decades.

“I wholeheartedly support both of these distinguished individuals to receive honorary doctorates from the University of Montana,” President Seth Bodnar said. “Both illustrate how a UM education leads to fulfilling lives of leadership and impact.”

Juneau graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from the UM law school in 2004 and has gone on to have a significant and positive influence both in Montana and nationally. She served as Montana’s first female Native American elected to a statewide executive office as Montana superintendent of public instruction.
In that role, she stewarded initiatives that helped transform the lives of Montana students through effective and evidence-based instruction. She also served as the director of Indian Education Division, playing an instrumental role in the Montana constitutionally mandated implementation of the Indian Education for All program.

“Her leadership taught Montanans how to be better partners to our tribal communities and taught our country the importance of inclusive and culturally humble education,” Bodnar wrote in his nomination. “Juneau has been a role model to many, and we are grateful and proud that she is now expanding her scope of influence as the superintendent of Seattle Public Schools.”

Raised on Montana’s Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Juneau is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara) in North Dakota. She earned a master’s degree in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education before earning her UM law degree. She also became the first openly gay person to run for the U.S. House of Representatives during the 2016 election.

A Havre native, Reynolds, earned a pre-med undergraduate degree from UM in 1952. He ran varsity track and served as student-body president his senior year before graduating with a commission as second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

Reynolds attended medical school at Washington University in St. Louis, where he met

and married Joanne “Jo” Flanagan, a registered nurse working at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. He earned his M.D. in 1956. He then completed his internship at University of Minnesota Hospitals (1956-57), as well as an internal medicine fellowship and Master of Surgery degree at Mayo Clinic during 1957-59 and 1961-63. The family moved to Missoula in 1963.

Reynolds had a distinguished career in medicine, serving not only as a doctor practicing internal medicine and endocrinology at the Western Montana Clinic for nearly 40 years, but also as president of Western Montana Clinic and of St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center Hospital staff.

A beloved doctor who also devoted his time as clinical faculty for the University of Washington WWAMI multistate
medical education program, Reynolds is the recipient of many honors, including the Alfred Stengel Award for Outstanding Service to the American College of Physicians.

Following his retirement from full-time practice, he continued to serve as governor of the American College of Physicians-Montana Chapter and later as the president of the American College of Physicians. In tandem with his impactful professional career, Reynolds also has been a tireless community advocate, playing an active role in more than 20 community organizations.

At UM, Bill has served on the UM Foundation board of directors, the Davidson Honors College advisory board and the College of Humanities and Sciences advisory board. In 2015, the annual teaching award for teaching across the curriculum by the humanities college was renamed the William Reynolds Teaching Award in his honor.

“We are very lucky to count him as one of the University of Montana’s friends,” Bodnar said.


Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-5608, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – University of Montana researcher Laurie Slovarp has received Investigational New Drug authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to begin research on a treatment for chronic cough. She is one of the first UM faculty members to submit a full IND application to the FDA to administer an investigational drug as part of clinical research.

Slovarp will study whether a molecule found in chili peppers can be used to enhance behavioral cough therapy for people who experience chronic cough due to cough hypersensitivity. Cough hypersensitivity results in cough triggered by things like perfumes, cooking smells, cold air, eating crumbly foods, and even talking or laughing.

She will investigate the potential of administering the FDA-approved molecule during behavioral cough therapy.
sessions to assist patients in their ability to suppress cough, which she hypothesizes will enhance the therapy and result in a reduction in cough sensitivity and cough frequency.

Slovarp first tested the treatment in a group of healthy individuals, all of whom experienced a significant change in cough sensitivity following the treatment. Her study was recently published in Annals of Translational Medicine.

Slovarp said chronic cough is the leading non-emergency reason people see a doctor, and up to 20 percent of patients do not respond to standard medical treatment.

“For many patients, this disorder leads to loss of work, social isolation and depression,” said Slovarp. “If this new therapy is found to be effective, it could become a noninvasive and inexpensive treatment option for many people who currently have limited options.”

Unless it qualifies for an exemption, an FDA IND authorization is required for any research that involves administering an investigational drug to humans.

“Dr. Slovarp worked diligently through the IND application process, which took about six weeks,” said IRB chair Paula Baker. “She then presented her study to the University of Montana Institutional Review Board, which has given full approval to begin her research.”

An associate professor in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Slovarp directs the Voice Outcomes and Inquiry of Cough and Essentials in Swallowing (VOICES) Lab, which conducts research related to swallowing disorders (dysphagia) and chronic cough.

Her work has been supported through the Mountain West Clinical Translational Research Infrastructure Network, the Montana IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, which is part of the National Institutes of Health.

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**Contact:** Laurie Slovarp, UM associate professor of communicative sciences and disorders, 406-243-2107,
UM Helps Create National Center for Rural School Mental Health

March 06, 2019

MISSOULA – The U.S. Department of Education has awarded nearly $10 million to establish a National Center for Rural School Mental Health. Dr. Ryan Tolleson Knee, a University of Montana social work professor, will co-direct the new center.

Researchers and staff at the new center will create an online data and training system to support the mental health needs of students in rural schools throughout Montana, Missouri and Virginia.

“This national center will develop and provide a wealth of information and resources to rural schools across the three states,” said Tolleson Knee, who already directs UM’s Center for Children, Families and Workforce Development.
Many of Montana’s rural schools have limited access to reliable data, professional development resources and coaching opportunities to adequately address the mental health needs of children and youth. This center will create a framework of support for educators who need those tools.”

Tolleson Knee will co-direct the new center with colleagues Dr. Wendy Reinke at the University of Missouri and Dr. Catherine Bradshaw at the University of Virginia.

Over the next five years, the National Center for Rural School Mental Health will give rural educators and administrators access to scientific research that can help improve student outcomes. Specifically, researchers at the center have developed the “early identification system” – a comprehensive mental health survey meant to identify student mental health concerns in their early stages.

For the past four years, Reinke and her team have collected survey data from K-12 students and their teachers in local school districts. The data collected will help the research team at the national center provide professional development training and coaching to rural educators in the three partner states.

Schools in rural Montana encounter many obstacles when it comes to identifying and preventing behavioral problems that children and youth exhibit.

“By joining a nationally-recognized team in Missouri and Virginia and forming this national center, the University of Montana will reinforce its commitment to conducting research that aligns with the needs of Montanans living in rural communities,” Tolleson Knee said.

Within five years, the research team plans to work with 110 rural schools in Montana, Missouri and Virginia to assess whether or not schools that implement the screeners and trainings experience improve social, behavioral and emotional outcomes from students.

“To date, few school-based programs focused on preventing behavioral and mental health problems have been developed specifically for or tested in rural settings,” Bradshaw said. “Through the center, we will adapt and scale-up a number of effective programs in a way that directly benefits rural schools and communities. This presents a unique opportunity and a bit of a challenge to us as researchers as we work to make these programs fit the needs of rural schools.”

For more information email Tolleson Knee at ryan.tollesonknee@umontana.edu. More information about the Center for Children, Families and Workforce Development is online at http://health.umt.edu/ccfwd/.

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**Contact:** Ryan Tolleson Knee, UM professor of social work, 406-529-6499, ryan.tollesonknee@mso.umt.edu.
 UM Helps Create National Center for Rural School Mental Health - UM News - University Of Montana

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MISSOULA – An upcoming performance “Rising Tide” at the University of Montana will join science and art to explore what individuals can do to impact global sustainability and climate change.

The Fry Street Quartet will join physicist Robert Davies on stage to present “Rising Tide” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21, in the Montana Theatre. An interdisciplinary collaboration, the performance aims to inspire reflection, foster engagement and incite action at a pivotal moment for the environment. Tickets cost $15 and can be purchased at http://bit.ly/2TlzpkF.

“Rising Tide” unfolds in a series of vignettes that explore the natural world from which we have emerged – and the human world that has emerged from us. Juxtaposing these two very different paradigms reveals the
It starkly different paths before us, and the opportunity to carve a safe and just operating space for humanity. With an original score by composer Laura Kaminsky, the music creates a contemplative space for the audience to process what we now know.

“The music is intended to make people think about things like water and glaciers and warming temperatures. But, like all art, it's open to interpretation. The project isn't meant to convert skeptics,” Davies said in an interview with NPR’s “All Things Considered.” “It's about convincing people who already believe we have these problems to start behaving like it.”

The Fry Street Quartet, comprised of violinists Robert Waters and Rebecca McFaul, violist Bradley Ottesen and cellist Anne Francis Bayless, has performed for audiences around the world. The dramatic landscape of northern Utah is now the quartet's home environment, and they prioritize creating a sense of place through their artistic endeavors and activities.

“Rising Tide” was created by Davies, who also narrates the performance. He has served as an officer and meteorologist in the U.S. Air Force, worked for NASA on the International Space Station project and taught at three universities. His scientific work has included research into interactions of spacecraft with the space environment, the fundamental nature of light and information and Earth’s changing climate. For the past decade, his work has focused on communicating the critical science of climate change and sustainable systems.

Campus partners in bringing “Rising Tide” to UM include the Office of Sustainability, Entertainment Management program, the Montana IoE and National Science Foundation EPSCoR Cooperative Agreement OIA-1757351, College of Visual and Performing Arts, UM Dining, UM BRIDGES and ASUM Sustainability Center.

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**Contact:** Mike Morelli, Entertainment Management program director, UM College of Business, 406-243-5810, mike.morelli@umontana.edu.
UM Irish Studies, Global Engagement to Hold St. Patrick’s Day Events

March 05, 2019

MISSOULA – This St. Patrick’s Day, the University of Montana’s Irish Studies program and Global Engagement Office will hold a variety of Irish-themed events.

“The month of March is when we celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and all things Irish,” said Traolach Ó Riordáin, UM’s director of Irish Studies. “It is the time of year when we look back on our past and ahead to our future – the future we will leave to our kids and grandkids. We invite all the people of Montana to join us in celebrating our past and in helping us to build our future.”

These traditional St. Patrick’s Day events will take place on Saturday, March 16, in Missoula:

- **8 a.m.** – Irish Catholic Mass at St. Francis Xavier church in honor of St. Patrick.
- **11 a.m.** – Parade lineup.
- **Noon** – Parade begins on Higgins Avenue.
- **2 p.m.** – Hurling game in UM’s Washington-Grizzly Stadium.
- **2 p.m.** – Irish Whiskey Tasting at the Rhino Bar.
2 to 4 p.m. – Free Carousel rides for children.
6 to 9:30 p.m. – Friends of Irish Studies Banquet and Auction in support of Irish Studies and culture in Montana at the Holiday Inn, Missoula Downtown.

The Banquet and Auction at the Holiday Inn is the big fundraiser for the Irish Studies program. Proceeds from the event promote Irish culture in the community, assist in the growth and development of the Irish Studies program and help students study in Ireland.

Tickets are $30 per person and available for purchase online or at the door. For more information, to purchase tickets or to donate to the Friends of Irish Studies, visit http://www.friendsofirishstudies.com.

All events are supported by the Irish Government’s Emigrant Support Programme.

This year’s International Festival, held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Center on Sunday, March 17, also will feature an Irish Extravaganza in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day.

According to Ó Ríordáin, Ireland and Montana have had a very special relationship since the first emigrants arrived in the territory. These emigrants and their sons and daughters have contributed much to the history and character of the state.

“The contributions of Thomas Francis Meagher, Marcus Daly and Mike Mansfield have been well-documented, but the contributions of so many more have gone unheralded,” Ó Ríordáin said. “Just as they served their new home in Montana, the Irish of this state never lost their love or commitment to Ireland.”

Montana became one of five great Irish-American strongholds during Ireland’s struggle for independence and a gathering place for every Irish nationalist leader.

Today, the state continues to occupy a very prominent and special place in the Irish culture as the home to active music, dance, language and sports clubs, as well as the largest Irish studies program west of the Mississippi – all supported and sustained by the people of Montana.

Contact: Traolach Ó Ríordáin, UM director of Irish Studies, 406-544-0311, traoalach.oriordain@msos.umt.edu; UM Global Engagement Office, 406-243-2288, global.engagement@umontana.edu.
Missoula – University of Montana alumna and 2018 MacArthur Fellow Dr. Lisa Parks will present at UM on Wednesday, March 13, as part of the Global Public Health Lecture Series.

Parks will present a lecture titled “How Information Technologies Impact Quality of Life in Africa: Rethinking Dominant Assumptions” at 6:30 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 123.

Parks is a professor of comparative media studies and director of the Global Media Technologies and Cultures Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her work explores the global reach of information technology infrastructure and the cultural, political and humanitarian implications of the flow of information. Her research seeks to understand how media systems can inform and
assist citizens, scholars and policymakers in the U.S. and abroad in advancing campaigns for technological literacy, creative expression, social justice and human rights.

The MacArthur Fellowship, informally known as the “Genius Grant,” is a no-strings-attached award given to talented and creative individuals who have shown “extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction,” according to the MacArthur Foundation. “The MacArthur Fellows Program is intended to encourage people of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual and professional inclinations.”

The Global Public Health Lecture Series features health professionals speaking about topics that are relevant to understanding some of the world’s most pressing global issues and is free and open to the public. It is co-hosted by UM’s Global Public Health minor and the Institute of Health and Humanities. The lectures will be recorded and made available by Missoula Community Access Television (MCAT) as part of a Media Assistance grant donated by MCAT. The complete lecture series schedule is available at http://hs.umt.edu/globalpublichealth/stories/spring-2019-lecture-series.php.

For additional information call Kelly Yarns, program coordinator, at 406-270-0869 or email kelly.yarns@mso.umt.edu, or call Peter Koehn, program director, at 406-243-5294 or email peter.koehn@mso.umt.edu. Learn more about the Global Public Health program at http://hs.umt.edu/globalpublichealth/.

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**Contact:** Kelly Yarns, UM Global Public Health program coordinator, 406-270-0869, kelly.yarns@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Graduate students in the University of Montana W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation put the latest forest management technology to the test in a new study published in the Journal of Forestry.

Eleven graduate students, along with Associate Professor Andrew Larson, tested out an Android OS tablet application. The app, developed by University of Washington
researchers, conducts real-time monitoring of timber harvest treatments meant to restore forests, reduce crown fire risk and help forests adapt to climate change.

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All of the work was completed as part of UM’s Applied Forest Ecology class.

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journal," Larson said. "Normally that’s the job of professional research scientists. It’s thrilling to see our graduate students conducting such strong work that they publish their term paper in the Journal of Forestry."

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“Professor Larson provided some essential components, but he expected us to figure out how to put all of the pieces together to conduct the experiment and analysis and to compose the manuscript," Worley-Hood said. “It was an excellent exercise in the scientific process and collaboration, and it especially helped in making the connection between theory and application.”

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The Journal of Forestry is published by the Society of American Foresters. Its mission is to advance the profession of forestry by keeping forest management professionals informed about significant developments and ideas in the many facets of forestry.

The ICO app and user documentation are available for free download on Scholarworks at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/ico/.

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**Contact:** Andrew Larson, associate professor of forest ecology, UM W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-5521, a.larson@umontana.edu.

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UM Graduate Student Researchers Test New Forestry App - UM News - University Of Montana
UM Alumni Association Announces Grizzly of the Last Decade Winners

March 01, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Alumni Association Board of Directors has announced the winners of its inaugural Grizzly of the Last Decade Award.

The award honors outstanding UM alumni who have graduated within the past decade, excelled early in their career and shown the potential for continued success.

Four exceptional alumni are this year’s recipients:

- **Colt Anderson** played football for the Griz from 2004 to 2008 and earned his bachelor’s degree from UM in business information systems with a secondary education teaching certificate in 2009.

From 2009 to 2018, he played football in the NFL for the Minnesota Vikings, Philadelphia Eagles, Indianapolis Colts and Buffalo Bills. He is co-owner of Utop Clothing Co. and The Missoula Club. He and his wife, Keelie, created the nonprofit Colt Anderson Dream Big Foundation to help Montana youth achieve their dreams through hard work, accountability and opportunities. They are involved with the Cystic Fibrosis March Madness event and an annual...
“Dream Big Event” for elementary schoolchildren in their hometown of Butte.

- **M. Jackson** graduated from UM with a master’s degree in environmental studies in 2011, and she received a doctorate in glaciology and geography from the University of Oregon in 2017.

A National Geographic Society Explorer, TED Fellow and U.S. Fulbright Ambassador, she has studied the effects of climate change on people in ice communities in Iceland and led multiple expeditions to the Arctic. She also has worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia and as a three-time U.S. Fulbright Scholar in Turkey and Iceland. The recipient of multiple awards, Jackson has written two books on glaciers in Iceland and currently teaches a writing course at UM, as well as collaborates on the multiyear project “In Tangible Ice.” A gifted public speaker, she is passionate about serving as a role model for female scientists and teaching the next generation about climate change.

- **Adam Moreno** received a master’s degree in forestry from UM in 2011 and earned a doctorate in forest ecology and remote sensing at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna.

He has worked in the Peace Corps in rural Paraguay as an environmental education volunteer, taught STEM to girls and women through ChickTech and promoted scientific outreach to rural high schools. He is passionate about advancing under-represented populations in academia and earth science through his involvement in scientific organizations such as the American Geophysical Union and the National Ecological Observatory Network. He now works as a lead scientist at the State of California Air Resources Board, where he researches how the state may help combat climate change. Moreno previously worked at NASA’s Ames Research Center, studying climate change, global forest vulnerability and supercomputing.

- **Greg Smith** graduated from UM with a bachelor’s in biology in 2009 and received his Doctor of Medicine in 2013 from the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

After completing his post-doc medical residency at the University of Virginia Medical Center and a fellowship at Texas Children’s Hospital, he became a staff anesthesiologist at Missoula Anesthesiology in 2018. He also is on the American Board of Anesthesiology. Smith received some of the highest honors as a medical student – such as induction into Alpha Omega Alpha – and awards as a practitioner, including the Brian Korbon Award for Outstanding Clinical Investigation by a Resident from the UVA Department of Anesthesiology in 2017. His research linking opioid prescriptions and postoperative pain, presented nationally, has helped shed light on the opioid epidemic in America.

To read more about the Grizzly of the Last Decade Award winners, visit [https://bit.ly/2UEjZW7](https://bit.ly/2UEjZW7) or contact Jodi Moreau, UM alumni engagement/board relations, at 406-243-6124 or jodi.moreau@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Jodi Moreau, engagement/board relations, UM Office of Alumni Relations, 406-243-6124, jodi.moreau@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana has been accepted into the Age-Friendly University Global Network, an international consortium of universities promoting participation, inclusion, education and wellness for older adults.

UM was recognized for its ongoing efforts to promote education for students interested in aging and methods that include older adults in educational and wellness programs on campus. These efforts include programming within the Montana Geriatric Education Center, the Institute for Gerontology Education, an interdisciplinary gerontology minor and the Montana Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

“Recognition of UM as an age-friendly university speaks to the accomplishments of the University in preparing students to work with older adults and their families in health-related disciplines and in reaching out to older adults to include them in the UM community,” said Keith Anderson, UM professor and director of the Montana Geriatric Education Center.

According to Anderson, acceptance into the Age-Friendly University Global Network recognizes the work that UM has done, but also acknowledges that continued efforts are needed to increase UM’s ability to train students in
gerontology and promote inclusivity to the growing number of older adults.

Brian Mac Craith, president of the Age-Friendly Global Network, said UM is “working to meet the needs of an aging population” and that “UM will bring an added richness to the Age-Friendly University Global Network.”

UM President Seth Bodnar said the University’s participation in the network speaks directly to its mission to include service and public impact in the student experience.

“We’re proud to be among universities who are working hard to create a culture of inclusive excellence, particularly for our aging population,” he said. “Because of UM’s efforts and advanced programming in gerontology, our students and faculty have the opportunity and capacity to deliver meaningful services to our community.”

For more information on the Age-Friendly University Global Network, visit https://www.dcu.ie/agefriendly/index.shtml.

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Contact: Keith Anderson, UM professor and director of the Montana Geriatric Education Center, 406-243-5212, keith.anderson@umontana.edu.
UM Researchers Study Alaska Forest Fires Over Past 450 Years

March 05, 2019

MISSOULA – In a recent study, University of Montana researchers explored the ways forest succession and climate variability interacted and influenced fires in Alaska’s boreal forests over the past four centuries – from 1550 to 2015.

“We reconstructed fire activity over the last 450 years using lake-sediment records,” said Tyler Hoecker, the study’s lead author.

As part of his master’s thesis work in the Systems Ecology program in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, Hoecker collected lake-sediment cores near the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge in central Alaska, a fire-prone area that also has many lakes.

“Charcoal produced by fires is blown into lakes and settles to the bottom, forming a stable record of the fire history in the layers of sediment, much like fire scars on tree rings,” Hoecker said. “By carefully measuring changes in charcoal through time, we deduced changes in fire activity. We paired fire history records from seven lakes with records of tree ages and a record of climate. Then, we compared these records, looking for patterns in how the processes interacted.”
Hoecker and co-author Phil Higuera, an associate professor of fire ecology in UM’s Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences, found that years of extensive fire activity usually occurred several decades after trees established, suggesting that the development of mature forest across the study landscape was necessary to support widespread burning. They also saw that there was more fire activity in years when temperatures were higher, especially over the past 100 years.

“In the 20th century, fires and temperatures both increased significantly, beyond what either had been at any earlier point in our 450-year record,” Hoecker said. “This indicates that fires are happening more frequently than they have for many centuries and could cause big changes in the character of forests in Alaska.”

Boreal forests cover over 10 percent of the Earth’s land area, and because they store massive amounts of carbon, both above and below ground, they are partly responsible for regulating Earth’s climate. While wildfires have burned in boreal forests for millennia, changes in fire activity could alter the way these forests affect regional and global climates, the researchers said.

“Understanding how slowly varying processes like succession and climate affect fire activity is difficult to do in a single human lifetime,” Higuera said. “Paleoecological records, like the lake sediments used in this study, extend the window of observation further into the past, allowing scientists to understand long-term change and put ongoing change into context.”

Hoecker said the paper helps address a number of questions related to the impact of climate change on fire activity. First, it helps tease apart the roles climate and vegetation play.

“We found that both were players: Fires require abundant fuel and warm, dry climate years,” he said. “But when temperatures really started increasing in the 20th century, fire activity did too. This suggests that climate is a key limiting factor for extensive burning in Alaska’s boreal forest.”

The study also helps place this increase into the broader context of the past.

“The increases in fire activity we saw in the 20th century are particularly significant when you compare them to the
previous several centuries,” Hoecker said. “That longer record suggests that the trajectory of increasing fire activity we are seeing in Alaska may be unprecedented over a very long period.”

Hoecker graduated from UM in 2017 with a master’s in systems ecology and is now a Ph.D. student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The study, “Forest succession and climate variability interacted to control fire activity over the last four centuries in an Alaskan boreal landscape,” was published in the journal Landscape Ecology and is available at https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10980-018-00766-8.

Contact: Tyler Hoecker, UM graduate and Ph.D. student at University of Wisconsin, Madison, 507-250-0610, hoecker@wisc.edu; Philip Higuera, UM associate professor of fire ecology, 406-243-6637, philip.higuera@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance will present the experimental and intimate dance concerts “Dance New Works” to audiences in March. The events highlight original choreography by the performers and UM students.

Produced by UM Associate Professor of
Dance Heidi Jones Eggert, “Dance New Works” will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 7-9, as well as at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 9, in the Open Space in UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center.

There are two programs. Program I is March 7 and March 9 at 7:30 p.m., and Program II is March 8 at 7:30 p.m. and March 9 at 2 p.m.

The production is general admission only, and tickets cost $10. Purchase tickets by calling the UMArts Box Office at 406-243-4581 between noon and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Tickets also are available at http://www.umt.edu/theatredance.

This production marks the second of this season’s Theatre & Dance’s Studio Series. “Dance New Works” is an annual showcase in the Dance Program’s intimate home venue, the Open Space, and it celebrates emerging student choreographers and faculty members. This year also will feature Faith Morrison, an acclaimed guest artist and alumna of the UM dance school.

Since graduating with her dance and mathematics degrees, Morrison completed her master’s degree in dance and worked professionally, teaching, performing and choreographing across the Northwest – most notably with the Polaris Dance Theatre in Portland, Oregon.

Morrison’s newly choreographed work, “Threshold,” investigates human connection, cycles of emotional instability and boundaries between people or within oneself. Through the use of gesture and virtuosic movement, the work reveals the power of crossing through thresholds of relationship.

Eight dance majors embody the sensitive work in Program II of “Dance New Works.”

Junior dance major Jordan Stuber will present “Energetically Poised,” a contemporary, musically driven ensemble
piece, performed with razor-edge precision. In fulfillment of Stuber’s junior creative project – a requirement of the undergraduate dance curriculum – she worked collaboratively with faculty and students of the Design Technology program of the School of Theatre & Dance to create an engaging backdrop.

Seven duets, featuring the collaborative work of the performers, will be presented by an advanced Creative Practice course. The group was charged with defining their creative habits and then challenged to exceed those, resulting in rich and unexpected journeys.

Ten additional dances across a spectrum of genres, ranging from experimental to fully conceptualized and produced, round out the two programs – totaling 19 new works of choreography. The diversity of artistic voices in “Dance New Works” will provide the viewer with myriad dance aesthetics and experiences.

For more information, call Eggert at 406-529-5401 or email heidi.eggert@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Heidi Jones Eggert, UM associate professor of dance, 406-529-5401, heidi.eggert@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Graduate students in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation put the latest forest management technology to the test in a new study published in the Journal of Forestry.

Eleven graduate students in Applied Forest Ecology, along with Associate Professor Andrew Larson, tested out an Android OS tablet application. The app, developed by University of Washington researchers, conducts real-time
monitoring of timber harvest treatments meant to restore forests, reduce crown fire risk and help forests adapt to climate change.

Apps already are widely used for field reconnaissance and forest inventory, but they’re just starting to be used in forest operations – the boots-on-the-ground bit where foresters and loggers decide which individual trees to cut and which to leave.

“In the past, forest thinning operations and restoration treatments focused on how many and how big of trees were left versus cut,” said Abigail Marshall, one of the study’s co-authors. “It’s now widely recognized that the way the trees and the gaps between them are arranged within a forest is also important.”

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Contact: Andrew Larson, associate professor of forest ecology, UM W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-5521, a.larson@umontana.edu.
UM to Celebrate Multiculturalism at International Festival March 17

March 07, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will once again celebrate internationalism, multiculturalism and intercultural awareness with its annual International Festival at the University Center. UM has hosted the popular event for 26 years.

The annual event
returns to campus from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 17, with an exciting mix of familiar and new attractions, including an Irish Extravaganza to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day.

UM’s Global Engagement Office and International Student Association invite the community to join the 27th annual celebration, which includes:

- The Interactive Culture Show, featuring five hours of contemporary and traditional performances by groups like UM’s Pacific Islanders Club.
- The interactive Children’s World, with more than 15 activity stations for children such as Chinese dragon making, puppet shows, German hat making, African hair braiding and Smokey Bear.
- The Global Expo Pavilion, where attendees can visit more than 50 booths featuring community and campus groups with diverse global cultural focuses.
- The Atrium Fiesta, a lively plaza with stalls, attractions and entertainment.
- The new Irish Extravaganza, including an exhibit on the life of Thomas Meagher, a celebration of Irish music and dance, an introduction to Irish sports and other activities.
- A newly expanded food truck section offering Mexican, Irish and Arabian cuisine and more.
- Internationally themed trivia contests.
- Study abroad storytelling from UM students.
- Documentary film screenings.
- Games and lessons in the Game Room.

The festival will offer free admission for UM students with a Griz Card. General admission costs $5 per person and $15 per family (two adults and unlimited children under age 18).

The International Festival is a nonprofit event produced in partnership with UM, the University Center, UM Dining, the Associated Students of UM, the Friends of Irish Studies, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Arts Missoula, Liquid Planet, the Thomas Meagher Bar, the Good Food Store, Boone Kerlb erg, the Stone of Accord and the Irish
Government Emigrant Support Program.

For more information call UM’s Global Engagement Office at 406-243-2288 or email global.engagement@umontana.edu.

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**Contact:** Marja Unkuri-Chaudry, interim director, UM Global Engagement Office, 406-243-2296, marjac@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The Montana Museum of Art and Culture at the University of Montana will host a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter who chronicled the life of one of America’s wealthiest families.

Bill Dedman, co-author of “Empty Mansions: The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune,” will present a lecture at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, in the Masquer Theater of the Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center. The lecture is free and open to the public. Dedman also will autograph copies of his book, which was co-written with Paul Clark Newell, Jr.

The event is held in conjunction with the museum’s exhibition "The William A. Clark Collection: A Homecoming," which features artwork from the estate of William A. Clark, a former Montana senator and one the most powerful and influential 19th-century Americans. The MMAC
received nine pieces from Clark’s estate, and eight pieces are currently on display. They include three paintings by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, two by Jean-Charles Cazin, one by Jules Dupré, one by Jean-Honoré Fragonard, one by Thomas Gainsborough and a sculpture attributed to Donatello. The ninth piece is in Seattle for conservation repairs and will rejoin the museum’s Permanent Collection when the work is complete.

The works will be on display through June 15. MMAC is home to more than 11,000 works of art. An international collection, it belongs to all Montanans. For more information call 406-243-2019 or visit http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/.

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