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May 2019 news releases

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UM Mansfield Center to Host Tiananmen Anniversary Discussion

May 31, 2019

MISSOULA – An event that forever shaped how the world views China will be discussed by participants who witnessed the armed suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests 30 years ago.

The University of Montana Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center will panelists in a conversation in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen protests. The event will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, in the Dell Brown Room of Tuner Hall. Free and open the public, the event is sponsored by the Montana World Affairs Council.

The discussion will feature Rose Tang, a Tiananmen student protest leader, and Dr. Terry Weidner, UM retired professor, who reported on the Tiananmen events as a U.S. Embassy analyst. Tang and Weidner will offer their memories and perspectives on the massive protest that nearly toppled the Chinese party dictatorship before it was suppressed by the People’s Liberation Army in 1989.

Dexter Roberts, former China bureau chief at Bloomberg Businessweek, will moderate the discussion. Audience members are invited to engage with speakers in a moderated question-and-answer session. A reception will immediately following the event.
Mansfield Center Executive Director Deena Mansour said the center is committed to bringing unique experiences to the western Montana community.

“Weidner and Tang bring us an exclusive look at the tragic events of 30 years ago,” she said. “This dialogue is in keeping with our mandate to shine a light on ethical public policy and global issues, especially in the current context of U.S.-China relations."

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center was created to enhance mutual understanding between the United States and Asia and to foster ethical public policy and leadership. The Montana World Affairs Council was established to provide fellow Montanans with greater opportunities for understanding global affairs and the world around us. For more information visit [www.umt.edu/mansfield](http://www.umt.edu/mansfield) or call 406-243-2988.

###

**Contact:** Caitlin Sager, program director, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.
The National Science Foundation has funded a new $20 million research and education project on water quality in Montana.

The project, titled the Consortium for Research on Environmental Water Systems, or CREWS, is a partnership between the University of Montana, Montana State
University, Montana

The CREWS project will focus on three study sites: the upper Clark Fork River, the Judith River Watershed and the Powder River Basin. Research will explore how nutrients and contaminants affect water quality — from rivers and soils to the local communities that rely on clean water.

“The CREWS project targets solutions to water quality issues that balance Montana’s need for clean water with the natural resource uses that are so crucial to the state’s economy,” said Ragan Callaway, the project’s principal investigator. Callaway is a UM Regents Professor of Ecology and project director for the Montana NSF EPSCoR Office.

Callaway said project researchers are working with government, business and nonprofit partners, as well as local citizens and landowners, to coordinate and carry out research and develop solutions to clean water issues.

The multi-institutional team will connect science to people across the state, Callaway said. Outreach and education programs as part of CREWS will increase science and technology fluency for rural K-12 learners and support Native American students in scientific and technological pursuits. The project creates opportunities for workforce development and innovation and promotes entrepreneurship.

At the upper Clark Fork River research site, the CREWS team will study river productivity and ecological integrity, as well as develop technical solutions that address contaminants. Social science researchers will study how water quality issues and solutions are influenced by the people who live and work along the upper Clark Fork River.

In the Judith River Basin, the project will conduct research on water chemistry and quality in order to understand the movements of nitrates and contaminants through soils, groundwater and streams. These efforts will lead to new technologies for removing contaminants from water systems.

And in the Powder River Basin, the CREWS research team will focus on understanding and mitigating the impacts of coal mining on ground and surface water quality. The goal of research in this region is to understand how sulfate
compounds form and mobilize in coal-spoils aquifers.

Initial private industry and other partners include Sunburst Sensors; Resonon; Water and Environmental Technologies; the Montana Department of Environmental Quality; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program; the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology; the Missoula Public Works Department; and the Clark Fork Coalition.

A team of 22 researchers from diverse science disciplines and institutions in Montana have come together to make this project possible. In addition to principal investigator Callaway, the project’s co-principal investigators are:

- Stephanie Ewing, associate professor of land resources and environmental sciences at MSU.
- Robert Walker, professor of chemistry and biochemistry at MSU.
- Maury Valett, professor of biological sciences at UM.
- Jerome Downey, professor of extractive metallurgy at Montana Tech.

The CREWS project is funded through EPSCoR, the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, which is an NSF program that has made substantial investments in Montana’s research infrastructure since 1980.

“Over the next five years, this project will make significant investments in Montana’s science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, including programs for Native Americans and rural Montanans,” Callaway said.

The project is underway and will run through Sept. 30, 2023. For more information visit https://www.mtnsfepscor.org.

###

UM Launches New Paramedicine Program at Missoula College

May 23, 2019

MISSOULA – Missoula College of the University of Montana has established a new degree in paramedicine, which leads to careers for emergency medical services professionals.

The Montana Board of Regents granted permission to establish the new Associate of Applied Science degree on May 23. Missoula
College plans to start training the first cohort of students to become emergency medical technicians and paramedics this fall.

“This is an exciting new degree option that’s coming,” said Dan Funsch, chair of the college’s Health Professions Department. “The program offers great opportunities for students, while contributing to community health and addressing a workforce shortage.”

The program requires four semesters and 73 credits to complete. The state Department of Labor classifies paramedicine as a high-demand occupation.

The college will partner with Missoula Emergency Services Inc. to offer the new degree. MESI has offered EMT and paramedicine training programs for three decades.

“Many of our graduates have gone on to become emergency room doctors, nurses, PAs and nurse practitioners,” said Kathy Andress, MESI education director.

Don Whalen, manager of MESI, said that although their program provides top-notch training and state paramedic certification, until this collaboration, the organization could not offer graduates a degree. Under a memorandum of understanding, Missoula College and MESI will work together to provide classroom instruction, while MESI will host clinical rotations.

MESI provides emergency services for much of western Montana, including Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Lake and Mineral counties. Applications will be accepted by both Missoula College and MESI.

“MESI approached us in 2018 with hopes of establishing a partnership that would facilitate their program accreditation,” Funsch said. “The program will address a need for emergency medical personnel. It also will provide students a stepping stone to other health care careers such as physician’s assistant, physical therapy or nursing. It’s a nice new addition to our degree portfolio at Missoula College.”

Contact: Dan Funsch, Missoula College Health Professions Department chair and Radiologic Technologist Program director, 406-239-6488, daniel.funsch@umontana.edu; Kathy Andress, Missoula Emergency Services Inc. education director, 406-549-2325, kandress@mssoulaparamedics.com.
UM Math Professor Emeritus Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

May 22, 2019

MISSOULA – The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics has named University of Montana math Professor Emeritus Johnny Lott a recipient of the most prestigious national award in mathematics education.

NCTM’s Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics Education, presented by the Mathematics Education Trust, honors those who have contributed
significantly to math education throughout their life by leadership, teaching and service. A tireless educator, advocate and supporter of mathematics education, Lott has dedicated his life to the math education community, while impacting and inspiring students and teachers alike.

He served as NCTM president from 2002 to 2004 and on numerous boards and panels during a career spanning nearly 50 years. He worked as vice president of the Montana Academy of Science, chair for the journal Teaching Children Mathematics and board member of the Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Nominated for the award by UM Professor Emeritus Rick Billstein for his commitment to creating “more and better mathematics for students,” Lott now is professor emeritus at UM after working in the Department of Mathematical Sciences from 1974 to 2005. While at UM, he co-wrote multiple textbooks, including a widely influential pre-service elementary math teachers book. He credits his time at the University as giving him the opportunities to expand math education across and outside of the state.

Lott codirected the Systemic Initiative for Montana Mathematics and Science in the 1990s, which produced a high school mathematics curriculum used nationwide that would later help modernize the field with its focus on problem-solving over inflexible standards. Income from the curriculum sales supports math teachers and initiatives statewide.

A distinguished alumnus of both Union University and Georgia State University, Lott previously earned the Dean Preble Memorial Award, the MCTM Meritorious Service Award and UM's George and Jane Dennison Faculty Award. He and his wife, Carolyn, have endowed a scholarship at UM, the Carolyn and Johnny Lott Scholarship, for a student on track to teach elementary mathematics.

Lott received NCTM's lifetime achievement award along with Margaret (Peg) Smith from the University of Pittsburgh and Lee V. Stiff of North Carolina State University.

NCTM is the world’s largest organization dedicated to improving prekindergarten through grade 12 math education with 40,000 members and more than 200 affiliates. Learn more at https://www.nctm.org/.

###
Contact: Frederick Peck, assistant professor, UM Department of Mathematical Sciences, 406-243-4053, frederick.peck@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – Nearly one-third (291,000) of all Montanans will travel over the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend, and 43% (358,000) plan to travel over the Fourth of July, according to a recent study by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana.

Seven percent will travel...
out of state for Memorial Day weekend, 13% will travel within 50 miles from home but stay in Montana, and 15% will travel in-state more than 50 miles from home.

More people will travel for the Fourth of July. Nine percent will travel out of state, 15% within 50 miles from home, and 19% more than 50 miles from home but still in Montana.

The study asked what recreation activities Montanans would participate in during the two holidays – specifically whether they were staying at home or traveling. Both holidays appear to be very family oriented. Over Memorial Day weekend, 39% will be with family and friends. Forty-six percent will spend the Fourth of July with family and friends.

Over Memorial Day weekend, 16% of Montanans will fish, 14% will camp, 13% picnic and 11% will hike. Many respondents, however, named supplementary activities that ITRR did not include on the survey, with “work” topping the list.

“This is the first time we conducted a survey of this kind,” said Norma Nickerson, ITRR director. “We are interested in starting our own ‘AAA-type’ travel survey, but by only asking about recreational activities, we left many people...
out. For many Montanans, their activity is work, and it was mentioned frequently for both holidays. This has been a good reminder to us, and others, that holidays are not all about recreation."

Another activity mentioned by a substantial number of Montanans for the Memorial Day weekend was to honor our fallen servicemen and women.

"It was encouraging to see that many Montanans will visit cemeteries and participate in Memorial Day events," she said.

Results showed that more Montanans will participate in recreation activities over July Fourth than Memorial Day weekend. As many as one-fourth of Montanans will attend special events like parades and festivals, along with picnicking (22%), fishing (19%), camping (19%), rafting/floating/motorboating (15%) and hiking (14%). Still, spending time with family and friends was at the top.

The ITRR study surveyed 3,542 Montanans age 18 and older who were intercepted at gas stations and rest areas throughout the state April 1 through May 15.

More information on the study is available at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs/386/. All information and reports published by ITRR are available online at http://www.itrr.umt.edu.

###

**Contact:** Norma Nickerson, director, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, 406-243-2328, norma.nickerson@umontana.edu.
UM Earns Multiple ‘Best’ Online Master’s Program Rankings

May 20, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s commitment to providing academic excellence for its students extends to online learners as well. Recently, UM became one of a few schools to earn multiple “Best” awards in 2019 for online master’s degree programs.

OnlineMasters.com, a platform that researches every graduate program nationwide and highlights those that help students gain the education they need, gave high rankings to the following UM programs:

- **Best Online MPA Programs, No. 15**: Students in this program receive one-on-one attention with their professors and applied learning experiences with the Baucus Institute’s Department of Public Administration and Policy within UM’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law.
- **Best Online Master’s in Public Health Programs, No. 9**: Students have the option of completing this program, which includes scholarships and service activities, in two years with full-time work or part time over three and a half years.
- **Best Online Master’s in Music Education Programs, No. 35**: This program is known for its technology integration for students certified in K-12 teaching, as well as incorporating music with other arts disciplines.
“The pride that UM faculty have in their work is evident in this recognition,” said Maricel Lawrence, UMOnline executive director.

UM offers a variety of online master’s degrees, associate degrees, minors, certificates and more.

“We’ve seen an increasing number of transformational online learning opportunities developed in the last several years, and UM is now poised for further strategic growth,” said Robert Squires, UMOnline director. “Providing a quality UM education in flexible online formats is key to serving the needs of today’s learners.”

For a full list of UM’s online programs, visit https://umonline.umt.edu/programs.php.

###

Contact: Robert Squires, UMOnline director, 406-243-6056, robert.squires@mso.umt.edu; Maricel Lawrence, UMOnline executive director, 406-243-5566, maricel.lawrence@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Montana Public Radio reporters have earned numerous awards from the Associated Press Television and Radio Association for their work in 2018.

MTPR’s Butte reporter Nora Saks received first place for Best Documentary for her radio documentary “The Last First Mile.” Judges loved her conversational tone and humor. Saks also received second place in enterprise reporting for a story called “Survey to Gauge Butte’s Perceptions of Clean Progress, Health Risks.”

MTPR Digital Editor Josh Burnham was honored for Best Digital Presence for his work on the MTPR website. Judges said the website had an “excellent variety of programming that can be found on-air and in a digital form.”

Capitol Correspondent Corin Cates-Carney and reporter Nick Mott received second place in Best Continuing Coverage for their stories of grizzly bear management in Montana. “The reporters did a good job showcasing multiple angles of this story over an extended period of time,” the judges said.
In the Best Spot News Coverage category, former MTPR Flathead correspondent Nicky Ouellet won for her coverage of the Howe Ridge Fire near Glacier National Park. Ouellet recently became news director of Yellowstone Public Radio in Billings.

“The MTPR news team works so hard; it’s great to have their outstanding work rewarded by the Associated Press,” said MTPR News Director Eric Whitney.

Forty-eight television and radio stations from 11 states submitted 367 entries in the contest.

“I am so proud of the important journalism and storytelling done by our news department,” said Ray Ekness, director of the University of Montana Broadcast Media Center.

Montana Public Radio is a public service of the University of Montana 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) and 89.9 Great Falls (KGPR).

Learn more at [http://mtpr.org](http://mtpr.org).

###

**Contact:** Eric Whitney, MTPR news director, 406-243-4075, eric.whitney@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – At the University of Montana, 2,427 students made the spring semester 2019 Dean’s List or President’s 4.0 List. To qualify, students must be undergraduates, earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher and receive grades of A or B in at least nine credits. Students who receive any grade of C+ or below or no credit (NC/NCR) in a course are not eligible.

The students on the linked list below made UM’s spring semester 2019 Dean’s List or the President’s 4.0 List. Double asterisks after a name indicate the student earned a 4.0 GPA. A single asterisk indicates a GPA greater than 3.5 but less than 4.0.

This information is grouped by hometowns and is available online at http://bit.ly/2YvM43j.

All dean's and graduate lists are online here: http://bit.ly/1Zy33Rm.

###
MISSOULA – The Cohesion Dance Project will present “Resonance – an Evening of Art Inspiring Art” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at the University of Montana Dennison Theatre.

“Resonance” is an artistic confluence of original works of sculpture, live music, dance, poetry, spoken word and visual art.

The production features professional contemporary dancers from across the state, along with live music by percussionist, composer and sound designer J. Stuart Smith of Albuquerque, New Mexico, local guitarist Nathan Zavalney and violinist Matt Bugni. Missoula-based dancers Madi Kelly, Faith Morrison, Jasmine Woods and Ashley Zhinin also will perform.
“Resonance” will include three kinetic metal sculptures by nationally recognized metal artist Richard Swanson; poetry and spoken word by best-selling author and poet Tyler Knott Gregson; visual art projection by artist Matt Plaumann of Portland, Maine; and choreography by CDP’s Amber Moon Peterson, Julynn Wilderson and Tanya W. Call – all intending to spark a ripple-effect of creative energy and cyclical inspirations of art inspiring art.

CDP also will hold a contemporary master class and audition seeking local community dancers to participate in the performance from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 19, in UM’s Performing Arts Radio/Television Center. The cost is $10, and interested dancers can show up at the door, visit http://www.cohesiondance.org or call 406-422-0830 for more info.

“Resonance” tickets cost $22 for general admission and $18 for students with ID and are available online at http://www.griztix.com or at 406-243-4051.

Founded in 2012, CDP is a nonprofit dance production based in Helena whose mission is to enrich, inspire and unite the community through dance. To view photos of the artists featured in “Resonance” and learn more about the event, visit http://cohesiondance.org/resonance/press-kit/.

###

**Contact:** Thomas Webster, UM Dennison Theatre director, 406-243-2853, thomas.webster@umontana.edu.
HAMILTON – Children, families and community members are invited to the third annual Bitterroot Maker Fair from 12 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, in the Bitterroot College Gymnasium at 103 S. Ninth St. in Hamilton. The event is free and open to the public.

The fair creates on-ramps for K-12 students to learn more about locally relevant careers, including sectors such as manufacturing, health care,
biotechnology and trades.

A partnership between the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area and Bitterroot College, the Bitterroot Maker Fair will feature activities and artifacts created by fifth grade students from Corvallis Middle School and Hamilton Middle School. Visitors can make and take home jigsaw puzzles, learn about electricity and conductivity with the popular Makey Makey circuit board and take silly photos using forced perspective photography.

The college’s FabLab will host live demonstrations of 3-D printing and laser engraving, and staff from Missoula Public Library's makerspace will showcase their CNC machine and opportunities for making and tinkering at the library.

Visitors also will meet local makers and learn about local career pathways and opportunities for learners of all ages at Bitterroot College. Students from Hamilton Middle School’s SciGirls Code Club will demonstrate the robots they designed and programmed. Students from local Science Olympiad teams will share about their activities and upcoming participation at a national level.

The fair is the capstone event of spectrUM's year-round Making and Tinkering in the Bitterroot initiative powered by the Martin Family Foundation. The initiative embeds hands-on science engagement in Hamilton and Corvallis schools.

For the third year in a row, a cohort of fifth grade teachers and librarians from Hamilton Middle School and Corvallis Middle School co-facilitated hands-on making activities in their classrooms and libraries throughout the school year alongside spectrUM Making and Tinkering Programs Manager Nick Wethington. Participating teachers receive ongoing professional development training, a curriculum book co-developed by spectrUM and K-12 teachers, and supplies.

“This is my first year where I am fully involved with making and tinkering being in my school,” said Kristi Rodriguez, a media specialist at Hamilton Middle School. “I love getting to know the kids in a different way. Some kids who struggle with the academics of school thrive in this making scenario. Their contribution to their classmates is one that lets them shine.”

SpectrUM’s Making and Tinkering in the Bitterroot Initiative is part of a larger effort with local K-12 schools and community organizations, as well as the Martin Family Foundation and the Jane S. Heman Foundation, to put Bitterroot K-12 students on the fast track to educational opportunities.

For more information, call Wethington at 406-243-4828.

###

**Contact:** Nick Wethington, Making and Tinkering Programs manager, UM spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, nicholos.wethington@umontana.edu.
SpectrUM, Bitterroot College to Host Maker Fair on May 18 - UM News - University Of Montana

University of Montana
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812
Phone: (406) 243-2522
news@umontana.edu

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May 13, 2019

MISSOULA – A new episode of the awarding-winning travelogue “Backroads of Montana” will premiere at 8 p.m. Monday, May 20, on MontanaPBS.

“We head to some real out-of-the-way spots on this program,” host and Montana native William Marcus said of this episode, titled “Rumors and Ringers.” “Viewers should really enjoy the trek across the state.”

Avon’s Jack Price and friends keep the sport of horseshoe pitching alive in Montana. He’s added horseshoe pits inside his garage so the competitions can continue during the winter months. And there’s a former friend and world champion that is always on their minds.

Gallup City, the dream of former Montana Gov. Hugo Aronson, once boasted a hotel, a dance hall and a grocery store – all riding above an underground ocean of oil. Today, only prairie dogs and pheasants notice the hand-hewn wooden sign that marks its location in Pondera County.

An iconic black goat once roamed the steep cliffs near De Borgia on the west end of Mineral County. For more than
a decade, locals nicknamed him Stinky and watched for him every time they drove past McGee Point.

Travel to West Yellowstone to meet participants and volunteers in Montana's Ski for Light program. The event enables visually impaired participants to experience Montana's great outdoors. Follow two legally blind skiers from Bozeman and Lewistown as they take in the sensations of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

The Missoula Smokejumper Base, the largest in the country, trains about 75 men and women firefighters each year to quickly reach and attack fires in remote and roadless areas in the West. Marcus will take viewers on a tour of the facility.

“Backroads of Montana” is produced by Marcus, Gus Chambers, John Twiggs and Ray Ekness.

“Rumors and Ringers” will re-air at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 25, and at 10:30 p.m. Sunday, May 26.

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

###

**Contact:** William Marcus, “Backroads of Montana” host, william.marcus@umontana.edu.
New Episode of ‘Backroads of Montana’ Set to Air on MontanaPBS - UM News - University Of Montana
MISSOULA – Members of the public are invited to attend the 15th annual Research Education on Air and Cardiovascular Health Environmental Health Science Symposium from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the University of Montana.

Nearly 200 high school students from schools across western Montana, including Charlo, Helena, Corvallis, Anaconda and Missoula, will present their air quality research findings. Students learned about the risks associated with prolonged exposure to three major air pollutants: particulate matter, radon and carbon monoxide. Their research primarily focused on measuring air pollution levels within homes, schools and local businesses. Top research projects will be recognized with special awards.

The event provides an excellent opportunity for the public to learn about how students are addressing common air pollution issues within their communities. Previous award-winning projects include: “Carbon Monoxide Produced During Combustion of Wood Based on Moisture Content;” “Effect of Different Running Surfaces on a Runner's
Exposure to PM2.5,” “Bioresmediation of Air Pollution Due to Wildfires” and “Rampant Radon Remediation: Attempting to Reduce Radon Levels in the Basement of Superior High School.”

The symposium, which is hosted by UM’s School of Public and Community Health Sciences and the Department of Chemistry, is divided into two divisions: a poster session and PowerPoint presentations. Posters can be viewed in the main lobby of the Skaggs Building on May 14, and PowerPoint presentations will take place between 10 a.m. and noon in the North Underground Urey Lecture Hall. The awards ceremony will begin at 1:35 p.m. and conclude by 2 p.m.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the National Institute of Health’s Science Education Partnership Award Program provide major funding and support for this event.

###

**Contact:** Brett Taylor, education coordinator, UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences, 406-243-4861, brett.taylor@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The statewide Montana College Access Network has created an infographic report that highlights the organization’s collective impact.

The report highlights how MCAN serves more than 40,000 students, recently offered $1.8 million in scholarships and held over 800 workshops. To view the infographic, visit http://bit.ly/2LK7UhY.

The network includes schools, higher education departments, state agencies and nonprofits, including University of Montana units such as TRIO Student Support Services, Upward Bound, MonTECH and Montana Campus Compact.

MCAN works to support, serve and enhance the efforts of affiliate members to increase post-secondary participation and completion for all Montanans. Established in 2008, the organization is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that helps advance the goal of all Montanans to achieve their career and lifestyle aspirations through higher education.

The network is expanding its membership in 2019-20, and potential partners should visit http://mtcollegeaccess.org/how-to-join/.
For more information on MCAN’s accomplishments or to join, email Peter Donaldson with TRIO Student Support Services and MCAN board member at peter.donaldson@mso.umt.edu.

###

**Contact:** Peter Donaldson, academic adviser, UM TRiO Student Support Services, 406-243-4202, peter.donaldson@mso.umt.edu; Josh Vanek, associate director, Montana Campus Compact, 406-243-5175, vanek@mtcompact.org.
MISSOULA – Dr. Thomas Gallagher has been named the new dean of Missoula College at the University of Montana. He will begin his duties on Monday, May 13.

Gallagher holds a master’s degree and a doctorate of education in educational leadership from UM, in addition to a Master of Science in computer science from Western Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics from Carroll College.

As a Missoula College faculty member since 2001, Gallagher has served as associate dean, director of the Information Technology degree program, director of the Missoula College Center of Academic Excellence for Cyber Defense, president of the Missoula College Faculty Association and chair of the Department of
Applied Computing and Engineering Technology.

“The focus at Missoula College has always been serving students and the local community,” he said. “I look forward to continuing to work with the energetic team of faculty and staff in place. We are well-poised to further the comprehensive mission assigned to two-year colleges in serving our community.”

Gallagher’s professional experiences and research interests examine transfer education, dual enrollment and work-based learning. His dissertation, “Baccalaureate Time-to-Degree for Montana University Two-Year College Transfer Students,” provided an early analysis of Montana University System policy and practice on baccalaureate degree completion for two-year college students.

“I am confident that Dr. Gallagher’s years of experience and service to Missoula College and the University of Montana will help stabilize and begin realizing the college’s tremendous potential,” said UM Provost Jon Harbor. “Missoula College has an extraordinary opportunity to develop innovative academic programming and create community partnerships to support Missoula’s growth.”

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**Contact:** Jon Harbor, UM executive vice president and provost, 406-243-4689, jon.harbor@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – A University of Montana student has won a Critical Language Scholarship to study Russian this summer in Vladimir, Russia.

Tyler Zuidema, who earned Russian and political science degrees from UM, will spend nearly 10 weeks overseas as she immerses herself in the experience.

“I am eager to learn as much as possible about Russian language and culture through the Critical Language Scholarship,” she said. “This is an amazing opportunity, and I can't wait to share my experience with others.”

The 2014 Havre High School graduate is the daughter of Amanda Storkson of Missoula and Timothy Zuidema of Great Falls. Zuidema
plans to attend law school to study international law.

The U.S. Department of State sponsors and oversees the CLS Program as part of a larger U.S. government effort to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering foreign languages that are critical to our national security and economic prosperity.

The program seeks participants with diverse interests and a wide range of fields of study and career paths, with the purpose of representing the full diversity of the United States. Participants are selected based on their commitment to language learning and plans to apply their language skills to their future academic or professional pursuits.

Contact: Laure Pengelly Drake, coordinator; UM Writing Center programs, external scholarships and advising, 406-243-6140, laure.pengellydrake@umontana.edu.
UM Student Wins Critical Language Scholarship for Summer Study in Russia - UM News - University Of Montana

32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812
Phone: (406) 243-2522
news@umontana.edu
MISSOULA – Eight University of Montana journalism students will journey through western Canada this month to report on energy and environmental issues, including a proposed oil pipeline expansion project. The student reporters will investigate how the project could drastically affect not only our northern neighbor’s energy economy, but that
of the United States as well.

After spending the spring semester researching the issues and organizing the logistics, these intrepid student journalists will spend three weeks producing stories across a variety of media.

They will focus on energy policy, First Nations perspectives, wildlife conservation and other topics related to oil sands development and the proposed Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, which was recently purchased by the Canadian government in order to fast-track its construction – despite growing opposition from the British Columbia government and many First Nations.

“This is an extraordinarily interesting time for a team of journalists to explore Alberta and B.C.,” said UM adjunct journalism instructor Jeff Gailus, an experienced environmental journalist from Alberta who will lead the group to the oil sands and then along the route of the Trans Mountain Pipeline to Vancouver. “There’s a pitched battle going on between the Alberta, British Columbia and federal governments that will have a significant impact on Canada's economy, and perhaps even influence whether Canada can continue to provide the U.S. with so much of its imported oil.”

Albertans recently elected a new conservative government that has declared “war” on anyone who opposes or criticizes Alberta’s oil-based economy, threatening to cut off the supply of oil and gas to B.C. if it doesn’t green light the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project, which is slated to transport oil sands crude to terminals in southwest B.C. and northwest Washington state.

This policy is diametrically opposed by the B.C. government and dozens of First Nations, which have said the pipeline project will never proceed. Meanwhile, the federal government owns the pipeline and also is trying to figure out how to honor its Paris Accord commitments to reduce Canada’s carbon emissions by 2% annually.

“There’s a lot of conflict surrounding this proposed pipeline expansion, and several important factors will determine if, or whether, the project goes forward or not,” said group member Kevin Trevellyan, an environmental journalism graduate student. “That’s part of what makes this trip so appealing.”
This international reporting experience is the latest edition of the Montana Journalism Abroad course, which allows adventurous students to sharpen on-the-ground reporting skills in foreign locales, where complex, meaningful stories are waiting to be discovered. The project presents a unique opportunity for students to follow their reporting instincts across a wide range of relevant subjects.

“The issues surrounding the proposal are almost limitless,” Trevelyan said, “and they present a great opportunity for us to challenge ourselves and grow as journalists.”

This UM journalism course has taken students around the world. Former groups have reported on South Korea’s urban centers, investigated the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in India, followed the refugee crisis in Germany and studied the aftermath of the earthquake and nuclear meltdown in Fukushima, Japan.

Learn more about this year’s international reporting class and their work at https://journalismabroad.jour.umt.edu/. Follow @northexposure2019 on Instagram and Northern Exposure Reporting Project on Twitter to receive day-to-day updates of their progress through Canada.

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Contact: Jeff Gailus, instructor, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-4001, jeff.gailus@umontana.edu.
UM Collaboration Brings Career Day to Corvallis Primary School

May 08, 2019

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 fifth graders from 9:30 a.m. to noon Friday, May 10.

The event is designed to inspire students to pursue career pathways in their community, especially in high-priority workforce sectors like manufacturing, small business, health care, and forestry and environmental management.

Participating career role models include:

- Graduate students Eric John and Yubin Kwon on chemistry and higher education from the UM Chemistry Department.
- Sherrill Brown on medicine from the UM pharmacy program.
- Allie Hagwood on welding and art from American Welding and Gas, Inc.
- Marisa Sowles on water resources from Geum Consulting.
- Chuck Nead on clinical laboratory science from Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital.
- Emily Denney on family health care from Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital.
Students will rotate through stations, engaging with role models who will lead activities and demonstrations and share stories from their career and educational experiences.

“Not only do students gain positive perspectives, set future goals and experience good character qualities, they get to experience that from local role models working right here in the Bitterroot Valley,” said Kristina Berger, technology and adult 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.”

The Bitterroot STEM Advisory Board of the Broader Impacts Group helped create this event as part of a collective-impact initiative supported by the Martin Family Foundation.

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. Role models from the program visit K-12 schools, libraries and museums, free meal sites and attend community events throughout Missoula, the Bitterroot and the Flathead Reservation.

The fifth grade Corvallis Career Day is just one highlight of the year-round programming and collective-impact efforts funded 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 [http://www.BIGintheBitterroot.org](http://www.BIGintheBitterroot.org) for more information.

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**Contact:** Amanda Duley, spectrUM staff scientist, 406-728-7836, amanda.duley@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – After a competitive national search, the Davidson Honors College at the University of Montana has a new dean.

Dr. Tim Nichols will join UM in July. He most recently taught honors courses at the University of Wyoming, where he was the “first gentleman” spouse to UW President Laurie Nichols.

“I am thrilled to be named dean of the Davidson Honors College and look forward to working with its students, faculty, staff – and partners across the University, community and country – to build on its strong foundation for an even brighter future,” he said.

From 2008 to 2016, Nicols led the Van D. and Barbara B. Fishback Honors College at South Dakota State University through a period of unprecedented growth. He holds degrees in general agriculture.
(B.S.), adult and continuing education (M.A.) and sociology (Ph.D.). He was president of the Upper Midwest Honors Council and has been active in the National Collegiate Honors Council.

“Dr. Nichols presented a compelling vision for the future of public honors education during the interview process,” UM Provost Jon Harbor said. “I am confident that the Davidson Honors College will flourish under Dr. Nichols’ direction and that the DHC will continue to contribute significantly to the outstanding reputation of the University of Montana.”

Nichols grew up in Washington’s Yakima Valley. His great-grandparents settled in the Flathead Valley in the 1890s, and his late mother was a 1953 UM graduate. He worked with Native American students and communities in South Dakota and Wyoming and has facilitated study abroad experiences in Greece, the Galapagos Islands, Mexico, Costa Rica and Bolivia. He and his wife are the parents of two young adult daughters.

A college within the University, the Davidson Honors College offers an intellectual and social hub to exceptional students from across Montana and the nation. It builds adventurous, engaged citizens with critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as a healthy dose of Montana grit. Learn more at http://www.dhc.umt.edu/.

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**Contact:** Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
University of Montana
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812
Phone: (406) 243-2522
news@umontana.edu
MISSOULA – Wildfires can have dramatic impacts on Western landscapes and communities, but human values determine whether the changes caused by fire are desired or dreaded. This is the simple – but often overlooked – message from a collaborative team of 23 researchers led by University of Montana faculty in a study published in the May issue of the journal *BioScience*.

The interdisciplinary team developed a framework that helps integrate scientific understanding of fire and its effects on ecosystems and human communities with an understanding of the human values that ultimately determine what people care about in and want from landscapes.

The paper, "Integrating Subjective and Objective Dimensions of Resilience in Fire-Prone Landscapes," was selected as "Editor's Choice" for the issue and is available online at [https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biz030](https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biz030).

Part of the unique story behind this research is how it was undertaken: It was born from an interdisciplinary effort...
from a group of leading ecologists and social scientists from across the U.S. As part of a grant from the Joint Fire Science Program, this group gathered at UM to help tackle the question: “What does it mean for ecosystems and communities to be resilient to wildfires?”

The discussions that ensued were lively, challenging and invigorating. The paper published this week is a key outcome from that effort. “One of the most satisfying parts of this work is that it represents a genuine team effort, integrating perspectives from varying disciplines and backgrounds. This is the type of interdisciplinary perspective needed to help us figure out how to better live in an increasingly fire-prone West,” said Philip Higuera, lead author of the study and UM associate professor of fire ecology in the Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences.

“Communities and fire managers across the West are told they need to be more ‘resilient’ to wildfire, but it’s actually pretty unclear what that means and what that resilience would look like on the ground,” said Alex Metcalf, UM assistant professor of human dimensions and paper coauthor. “We developed this framework to help people work through this process to ultimately ‘live well with wildfire.’”

“While fire ecology helps society understand the role of fire in ecosystems and the important impacts fires have on forests, decisions on how people live in an increasingly fire-prone West are complex and tug on deeply-held human values. Conversations about fire management – and land management in general – have to start by identifying what aspects of a landscape or community humans value and thus want to protect or promote,” said Higuera.

So what does resilience to wildfire look like? The answer, the paper emphasizes, needs to come from community members, policy makers and land managers working together, calling upon the best scientific understanding of how fire operates and how it affects the things we value. This past April, the research team held a workshop at UM with 21 land managers and community leaders, as a next step in the larger research project. The group worked through the process of identifying what resilience means to them and how they can promote social-ecological resilience in their own communities.

The research team on the grant also includes: Elizabeth Metcalf, associate professor of human dimensions at UM; Carol Miller, research ecologist at the U.S. Forest Service’s Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute; and Dave McWethy, an assistant professor of earth sciences at Montana State University. Other coauthors include Cara Nelson and Brian Chaffin from UM, as well as researchers from 10 other institutions.

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New UM Study Highlights Fundamental Challenges of Living with Wildfire - UM News - University Of Montana

Contact: Philip Higuera, UM associate professor of fire ecology, 406-599-8908, philip.higuera@umontana.edu; Alexander Metcalf, UM assistant professor of human dimensions, 814-574-6128, alex.metcalf@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA – The oil painting titled “Animals Crossing a Bridge” by 19th-century French artist Jules Dupré that once belonged to Sen. William A. Clark has returned to its former brilliance and to the University of Montana after six months of repair.

The painting was a gift from the Trustees of the Corcoran Gallery of Art to the Montana Museum of Art & Culture when the former institution in Washington, D.C., closed its doors. When it arrived in Missoula in July 2018, the painting was severely damaged, requiring both cleaning and conservation.

The work was entrusted to Seattle-area conservator Peter Malarkey, who meticulously restored it to its former brilliance by removing
darkened varnishes, consolidating and touching up areas of paint loss, repairing earlier interventions and re-varnishing it. The painstaking conservation work, photographed and documented throughout the process, was funded by generous support from Suzanne and Bruce Crocker.

The painting was removed from its original gilded frame, which also was heavily damaged, and reframed by the Art Attic in Missoula.

Dupré (1811-1889) first showed his paintings at an 1830 Paris exhibition to benefit those wounded in the French Revolution of the same year. Over the next decade, artists who eventually formed the so-called Barbizon School went together on trips to sketch the countryside just beyond the capital, sometimes as far afield as Auvergne and Normandy.

Dupré preferred to paint the sparsely wooded plains along the Oise River, near L’Isle-Adam just northeast of Paris. This is likely where he painted “Animals Crossing a Bridge,” an image of a peasant herding his cattle across a bridge under an expansive sky.


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**Contact:** Rafael Chacon, Bruce and Suzanne Crocker director, Montana Museum of Art & Culture at UM, 406-243-2020, hrafael.chacon@umontana.edu; Jeremy Canwell, MMAC curator of art and exhibitions coordinator, 406-243-2019, jeremy.canwell@umontana.edu.
May 06, 2019

YELLOW BAY – The University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station is adding Polson Bay to its overall monitoring and research profile.

The addition of Polson Bay as a new sampling site was made possible by the Flathead Lakers, who made a financial leadership contribution, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, who granted a permit for the new monitoring site and who support additional
Flathead Lake Bio Station Expands Monitoring Program to Polson Bay - UM News - University Of Montana

“We’re really excited about the Polson Bay monitoring site,” said FLBS Director Jim Elser. “It’s effectively a whole different lake down there, so we can imagine many new scientific insights and opportunities arising out of this effort.”

The new site allows the Bio Station to include the southern basin of Flathead Lake and continue producing meaningful research that stewards the ecological and economic benefits of Flathead Lake. The new sampling site also allows FLBS to expand data and bolster cutting-edge research related to the early detection of aquatic invasive species.

“Adding the Polson Bay site to the Flathead Monitoring Program will help us understand Flathead Lake’s ecology and dynamism like never before, as well as strengthen our ability to fulfill our role as stewards of the lake,” said Shawn Devlin, an assistant research professor overseeing FLBS watershed monitoring. “The fact that the Flathead Citizen Science program and its enthusiastic participants’ hard work helped to facilitate the expansion is inspiring. The Flathead Lake community is dedicated and passionate and, above all, very much appreciated by FLBS.”

Although the FLBS research and monitoring program has sampled more than 60 sites around Flathead Lake and another 20 sites within its river systems, few sites are visited more than once each year. Regular, monthly sampling in the lake is conducted primarily at a single sampling site in the deepest part of the lake off Yellow Bay at a station known as “Mid-Lake Deep.”

FLBS data show that this site represents the conditions throughout the deep, open water portion of the lake, but it may not reflect conditions or capture negative changes in other areas of the lake, such as near the shoreline or in the shallow south basin.

Spurred by compelling spatial data gathered by citizen scientists, researchers at FLBS felt it was time to add another sampling site to the station’s water quality monitoring program.

Located in the middle of Flathead Lake’s southern basin, the new Polson Bay monitoring site is located between the...
shorelines of Polson and the chain of islands referred to as “The Narrows.” Data collection began at the site in mid-April and will continue throughout the summer and fall until ice cover forms.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation granted UM a permit for the new monitoring site.

“CSKT is honored to partner with the Bio Station,” said Ronald Trahan, chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. “We have some of the finest employees who work to protect our waters, lands, fish, plants and wildlife, utilizing the best science available.”

The Flathead Lakers is a volunteer organization that protects and improves water quality through advocacy, education and stewardship. Philanthropic support from the station’s generous community, especially shoreline homeowners, comprised the remaining funding for the expansion.

“The Flathead Lakers are pleased to help support water monitoring by FLBS in Polson Bay,” said Flathead Lakers President Thomas Cox. “Early detection of any changes in water quality or the appearance of invasive species may allow intervention before it is too late. This is extremely important to the community of Polson and everywhere else around the lake.”

Additional funding is still needed to ensure monitoring in Polson Bay can extend well into the future and support FLBS scientists in their early detection of aquatic invasive species and other water quality threats. Recently announced fundraising efforts, such as the Bio Station Business Drive, will support enhanced research and water quality monitoring in the Flathead watershed.

“Polson Bay is a real focal point for how so many people in our community experience and enjoy the lake,” Elser said.

“We need to have a better sense of what is happening there so we can try to head off any problems that might arise, which is part of our mission in serving our community with the best possible science. We really rely on the support from the community in making that happen.”

Known as the “Sentinel of the Lake,” FLBS has maintained a scientifically rigorous research and monitoring program in the Flathead watershed since 1977. The station currently boasts one of the best long-term lake and river datasets in the world and its monitoring program plays a critical role in the watershed’s health by predicting threats to its environmental health.

For more information about the new Polson Bay Monitoring Site or to learn how to support the monitoring program, email Elser at jim.elser@umontana.edu or call 406-872-4500.

###

Contact: Tom Bansak, assistant director, Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-872-4503, tom.bansak@flbs.umt.edu; Ian Withrow, FLBS media/information specialist, 406-872-4544, ian.withrow@flbs.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana has 2,046 students who are degree candidates for spring semester 2019. Many of those will participate in Commencement ceremonies at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 4, in the Adams Center.

The students listed below are UM degree candidates or have been awarded their degrees for spring semester 2019.

Graduates with "cum laude" after their name indicate a GPA of 3.40 to 3.69. "Magna laude" indicates a 3.70 to 3.89 GPA, and "summa laude" is 3.90 and above.

Official awarding of a degree and any official graduation with honors or graduation with high honors designation is not made until degree candidates have completed their final term of enrollment and have met all specific requirements.

The full list of in-state graduates is here: http://bit.ly/2DMhDOm.
UM Announces Spring Semester Graduates - UM News - University Of Montana


Contact: UM Registrar’s Office, 406-243-5600,
UM Expands Summer Options to Better Serve Students

May 06, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – The University of Montana is enhancing its summer semester options this year by offering more classes, free math tutoring and discounted on-campus housing for students.

Summer courses can help students shorten their time to graduation while providing the chance to take part in unique experiential learning opportunities, complete general education requirements, learn in accelerated course formats and receive more individualized attention in smaller classes.

“Last summer we saw a substantial jump in summer enrollment, and that told us that our students are eager to continue their studies – and in many cases complete their degrees – over the summer,” said Grace Gardner, director of UM Summer Programs. “This year, we are offering more summer classes and more perks like discounted housing and math tutoring to help students stay on course for graduation.”

UM will offer more than 1,000 classes this summer, and more than 200 of those will be online, allowing students to
attend from anywhere with internet access. This year summer courses will be offered in three-week, six-week and 12-week sessions. This is more sessions than previous years, a move made possible by shortening the break between fall and spring semesters earlier this year.

These additional summer sessions help students by offering more flexibility between the sessions, smaller class sizes, a chance to participate in out-of-classroom experience such as field research, service-learning opportunities, independent studies, study abroad trips, internship experiences and excursions for credit in and around Montana. They also provide an opportunity to complete an entire three-credit course in three, six or 12 weeks rather than the traditional 15-week term.

For the first time ever, UM Housing is providing a special on-campus housing offer for students taking at least six credits this summer. The new initiative offers an affordable option for students who want to stay in Missoula and take summer courses. Students can live in Jesse Hall for a flat rate of $300 for a shared room or $450 for a single room for the entire summer term. Space is limited so students are encouraged to submit a Summer Housing Application as soon as possible.

“Our students told us they want to continue taking classes over the summer, but housing can be a challenge,” said Sandy Curtis, UM Housing director. “As a result, we are offering discounted residence hall rooms to summer students for the first time, and we’re excited by the response we’ve gotten so far. We are hopeful that this discount makes summer session a viable option for more students.”

In addition to providing an on-campus housing option, UM will offer free summer math tutoring at both UM’s Mountain campus and Missoula College.

“Math courses are popular summer classes at UM, and many students benefit from smaller class sizes and five-day-a-week format when tackling this subject matter,” said Nathan Lindsay, vice provost for academic affairs. “Our free math tutoring at both campuses is intended to help these students succeed as they work toward completing their general education and major requirements.”

This year UM has also extended the summer payment deadline to Sunday, July 14. Students who fill out the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) by June 30 and summer aid application could be eligible for summer financial aid, work-study or a Pell Grant.

Registration for summer session is open now. For more information visit http://www.umt.edu/summer, call Gardner at 406-243-4420 or email grace.gardner@mso.umt.edu.

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Contact: Grace Gardner, director of UM Summer Programs, 406-243-4420, grace.gardner@mso.umt.edu.
SpectrUM to Host Flathead Tech and Science Festival on May 4

May 03, 2019

WISOUULIA –Children, families and community members are invited to the second annual Flathead Tech and Science Festival from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, at the Joe McDonald Center at Salish Kootenai College. The event is free and open to the public.

Visitors to the festival can challenge their creative-thinking skills at hands-on science stations and check out science fair projects by students from Ronan, Polson, Charlo and Hot Springs, creations from Tech4Good’s Spring Game Jam and Rube Goldberg machines made by students from local middle schools and the Boys and Girls Club of Lake County.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation, the Flathead Tech and Science Festival is part of a collective-impact effort on the Flathead Reservation to promote college and career readiness for preK-12 students. SpectrUM is organizing the event in partnership with Salish Kootenai College, UM’s Indigenous Research and STEM Education Program, Flathead Tech4Good, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and spectrUM’s SciNation advisory group.
“With SciNation, spectrUM collaborates with K-12 schools, the Tribes and community organizations to develop culturally relevant STEM programming designed to inspire students about higher education and career pathways,” said spectrUM Associate Director Jessie Herbert-Meney. “The festival is a programming highlight of community-wide efforts to foster a vibrant, homegrown, Native STEM workforce on the Flathead Reservation.”

For more information call Herbert-Meney at 406-243-4828.

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Contact: Jessie Herbert-Meney, associate director, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
Director of UM Flathead Lake Biological Station Elected to National Academy of Sciences

May 02, 2019

UM News Service

YELLOW BAY – Flathead Lake Biological Station Director and Bierman Professor of Ecology Jim Elser has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of his distinguished and continuing achievements in scientific research.

“We are so pleased that the scientific community has recognized Professor Elser as one of our country’s most important scientists,” said UM President Seth Bodnar. “The UM family proudly celebrates this well-deserved recognition.”

The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit
institution established under a congressional charter signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. It recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and – with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine – provides science, engineering and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.

“It is very exciting to join the ranks of the National Academy, as it is the home of so many scientific heroes of the past and present,” Elser said. “I hope that membership in the NAS can help in elevating the importance of protecting precious water resources like Flathead Lake from potential threats from nutrient pollution, invasive species and climate change.”

Elser was elected to NAS by current members of the Academy, and will join them as they advise the nation on matters relating to science, engineering and medicine.

As a scientist, Elser is best known for his role in developing and testing the theory of ecological stoichiometry, which is the study of the balance of energy and chemical elements such as carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus in ecological systems.

As director of the Bio Station, Elser has expanded the station’s freshwater monitoring program, increased community outreach and launched a Flathead Lake Aquatic Research and Education (FLARE) K-12 program that now engages thousands of students each year.

“I have collaborated with so many amazing scientists during my career, including some amazing graduate students and postdocs,” Elser said. “This recognition is really a reflection of my good luck in having such wonderful students and collaborators.”

His current research is focused on Flathead Lake, as well as mountain lakes of western Montana and western China. Elser also works actively in advancing the cause of phosphorus sustainability in the food system to protect water quality.

Though by far the most prestigious recognition Elser has earned, this recognition is by no means the first of his remarkable career. He has also been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; is an elected foreign member of the Norwegian Academy of Arts and Sciences; and has received the G.E. Hutchinson Award of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, the world’s largest scientific association dedicated to aquatic sciences. He served as ASLO's president from 2014 to 2016.
“This is a tremendous accomplishment, one of the very highest honors for an American scientist,” said UM Provost Jon Harbor. “We are so proud of Professor Elser and thrilled that University of Montana faculty are yet again recognized among the most highly distinguished researchers in the world.”

Elser is just the second active member of the National Academy of Sciences in the state of Montana.

For more information about Elser’s research and career, visit the Flathead Lake Biological Station website at http://flbs.umt.edu.

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**Contact:** Tom Bansak, assistant director, Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-872-4503, tom.bansak@flbs.umt.edu; Ian Withrow, media/information specialist, 406-872-4544, ian.withrow@flbs.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana has named Renae Scott its permanent chief information officer. Scott has served in the role in an interim capacity since September.

An information technology leader with a strong portfolio of accomplishments and an extensive background in higher education, Scott arrived at UM in early 2017 as assistant CIO. Before coming to UM, she served for nearly 27 years in information technology at Rice University in Houston.

Scott is the first female to be named permanent chief information officer at UM.

UM President Seth Bodnar praised Scott’s service as interim CIO in a campus email announcing her appointment, noting Scott’s deep
knowledge of systems engineering, integration and vision for how to best support the University and move forward with new and innovative technologies.

"Information technology touches virtually every area of the campus," he said. "It is integral to our ability to deliver programs, support our students and employees, and enable all of our campus operations. I am grateful for Renae’s current and future contributions to our team."

Scott earned a bachelor of science in psychology and mathematics from Memphis State University. She also serves on the Board for Health Information Exchange of Montana.

“I’m honored to continue serving the University of Montana as chief information officer,” said Scott. “We are doing some amazing and innovative work across all areas of the institution, and I look forward to supporting those efforts with the help of the dedicated and talented IT team across campus.”

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Contact: Paula Short, director of communications, UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, paula.short@mso.umt.edu.
Renae Scott Hired as UM Chief Information Officer - UM News - University Of Montana
Six UM Students Awarded Fulbright Assignments to Work Abroad

May 09, 2019
MISSOULA – Six University of Montana students recently earned prestigious Fulbright awards to research or teach English overseas.

The Fulbright grantees are:

- Kaitlyn Anderson, a 2019 UM graduate from Kalispell who earned a degree in resource conservation and a minor in wildlife biology from UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. She will journey halfway across the world to Tajikistan to complete a Fulbright research project on human and wildlife conflicts.

- Natasha Harwood, a Butte native who will graduate from UM this summer with dual degrees in German and Russian and a minor in linguistics after completing a semester of study in St. Petersburg, Russia. Her Fulbright grant will send her to Saxony, Germany, to work as an English teaching assistant.

- Holly Jacobs, a 2018 double-major in music and German from Frenchtown. She will return to Germany, where she completed a study abroad experience as an undergraduate, to work as an English teaching assistant in the German state of Lower Saxony.

- Dusty Keim, who earned degrees in English literature and creative writing this spring at UM with minors in German, history and European studies. The Twin Bridges native will work as an English teaching assistant in Austria this fall.
Miranda Morgan, a UM writing instructor and master's candidate in nonfiction writing from Santa Fe, New Mexico. She will spend next year in Bergen, Norway, through her Fulbright award as an English teaching assistant, as well as serve as a resource for learning English and understanding American culture at Bergen Cathedral School.

- Anne Yoncha, a master's student in fine arts at UM from Wilmington, Delaware. She earned a Fulbright award to perform research in Finland on a site formerly used as reindeer habitat. She will collect data from layers of peat in disturbed and undisturbed areas and hopes to create an art-science installation called “Re:Peat.”

During their Fulbright experiences abroad, the students will meet, work, live and learn from the people of the host country, sharing daily experiences. The program facilitates cultural exchange through direct interaction on an individual basis in the classroom, field, home and routine tasks, allowing the grantee to gain an appreciation of other viewpoints and beliefs.

###

Contact: Liz Ametsbichler, UM Fulbright Program adviser, 406-243-5001, liz.ametsbichler@umontana.edu; Clint Walker, UM incoming Fulbright Program adviser, 406-243-2401, clint.walker@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Joanna Klink, a University of Montana Creative Writing professor and author, has been named a 2019 Guggenheim Fellow by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Klink is one of 168 scholars, artists and writers selected for the honor from 3,000 applicants and one of just nine poets chosen from across the nation. Selection is based on prior achievement and exceptional promise.

“I was truly surprised,” Klink said. “And I’m grateful. The award will help me to continue writing poems at a time when that means more to me than it’s ever meant before.”

Klink is the author of four books of poetry. Her most recent, “Excerpts from a Secret Prophecy,” was published by
Penguin in 2015.

Poet Louise Glück has written of Klink: “In a culture inclined to mistake opacity for depth and stridency for passionate feeling, Joanna Klink has made a body of work at once utterly lucid and breathtakingly urgent. She navigates between those most suspicious extremes, despair and ecstasy, without ever seeming to be a poet dependent on extremes. The extraordinary beauty of her poems, from the beginning, has resulted from a constantly refined attention to the ordinary and the daily. Taken together, her books are an amazing experience: harrowing, ravishing, essential, unstoppable.”

Klink’s previous books include “Raptus,” “Circadian” and “They Are Sleeping,” which won the Contemporary Poetry Series in 2000 through the University of Georgia Press. Her poems have appeared in a range of journals and anthologies, including Paris Review, A Public Space, Poetry, The Penguin Anthology of 20th Century Poetry, and Resistance Rebellion, Life: 50 Poems Now.

She also has received residency fellowships from Civitella Ranieri, the Bogliasco Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, MacDowell, Yaddo and the Ucross Foundation.

Klink’s awards include the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award, the Jeannette Haien Ballard Writer’s Prize, the Arts and Letters Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholarship, which allowed her to live in Rome in 2018.

A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and the doctoral program in humanities at Johns Hopkins, Klink was the Briggs-Copeland Poet at Harvard University and the Tin House Writer-in-Residence at Portland State University. She has taught creative writing at UM since 2000.

Klink is finishing her fifth book of poems, which is forthcoming from Penguin in 2020. Her new book includes a sequence of poems called “Night Sky,” which is based on the chambers of James Turrell’s Roden Crater.

Since its establishment in 1925, the Guggenheim Foundation has granted more than $360 million in fellowships to
over 18,000 individuals, among whom are scores of Nobel laureates, fields medalists, poets laureate, members of
the various national academies and winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the Turing Award, the National Book Award and
other significant honors.

For more information on the Fellows and their projects, visit the foundation’s website at http://www.gf.org.

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**Contact:** Joanna Klink, UM professor of English, 646-537-5554, joanna.klink@umontana.edu.
Mother’s Day Tragicomedy Show Comes to UM’s Dennison Theatre May 12

May 01, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – Seven mothers will take the stage for a night of live storytelling as they share their true, tragic and comedic tales of early motherhood in a production of “MOMedy” on Sunday, May 12, at the University of Montana’s Dennison Theatre.

The doors will open at 5 p.m. and the show begins at 6 p.m. Tickets cost $25 in advance and $28 at the door. They are available online at https://tinyurl.com/momedy.

“MOMedy” is produced and directed by Melissa Bangs, a Missoula artist who suffered a psychotic breakdown after the birth of her daughter in 2012. As she recovered from postpartum psychosis, she turned her experience into a performance titled “Playing Monopoly with God & Other True Stories” and toured nationally to packed venues and sold-out shows.

“MOMedy” is the culmination of a recent storytelling workshop led by Bangs. Twelve women spent a day with Bangs
excavating their stories and honing their storytelling skills.

“At the heart of the evening is the very thing so many of us are hungry for: authenticity within realms that are too often cloaked in stigma, shame and silence,” Bangs said. “MOMedy is a cathartic journey through the depth of our truest, bravest, most vulnerable voices. And, in many moments, it's terribly hilarious.”

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**Contact:** Melissa Bangs, "MOMedy" producer and director, 406-241-3500, [melissa@playingmonopolywithgod.com](mailto:melissa@playingmonopolywithgod.com).