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UM News

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National Science Foundation Awards UM $395K for Computing Cluster

June 28, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana recently was awarded $395,000 from the National Science Foundation to build a high-performance computing cluster for UM researchers and students in support of scientific discovery.

Zach Rossmiller, executive director of UM Cyberinfrastructure,



will serve as the principal investigator for the one-year grant, from NSF's Campus Cyberinfrastructure program.

Cyberinfrastructure typically describes research environments that support advanced data storage, management, integration and mining for better collaboration in the science disciplines.

The proposal was created by Rossmiller, members of UM's scientific research community and the University's Social Science Research Laboratory. Rossmiller said the successful proposal will allow UM to build its first shared computing cluster, called UMSCC.

"Having a resource like the shared computing cluster is a huge benefit to not only our current researchers, but also to any new and incoming researchers," he said. "We are providing a resource for them so that they can hit the ground running as soon as they step foot on campus."

Open source software solutions and participation in the Open Science Grid, a national distributed computing partnership, will extend computing resources to internal and external research groups. Rossmiller said he expects UMSCC to be ready for use before fall 2020.

"A resource like this on campus is crucial for our researchers to be competitive in their respective research fields and academic contributions at UM," he said. "Campus IT is working hard to provide University researchers and educators access to high-performance computing, high-bandwidth network and sharable storage."

Rossmiller said a special aspect of this project is the working relationship between IT and UM's scientific research community.

"Current research needs were the driving force behind the project," he said.

Additionally, NSF evaluated proposals based on the level of collaboration between IT departments and researchers in identifying computing solutions, as well as the strength of the research enabled by the proposed improvements.

Co-principal investigators at UM include Hilary Martens, assistant professor of geophysics in the College of Humanities and Sciences; Erin Landguth, associate professor in the School of Public and Community Health Sciences's Computational Ecology Lab; Jeffrey Good, associate professor in the Division of Biological Sciences; and Travis Wheeler, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science.

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Renowned UM Photography Professor's Exhibition to Open at MMAC

June 28, 2019

MISSOULA – The Montana Museum of Art & Culture will open a photography exhibition from award-winning photographer and University of Montana Associate Professor Matthew Hamon on July 12.

The opening reception will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. in the MMAC's Paxson Gallery in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center on the UM campus.

Hamon created the arresting photographs in this exhibition partly while traveling in the Rocky Mountain West and partly during a sabbatical that took him to Iceland. Through selections



from those travels, this exhibition contemplates a driving concept of Hamon's creative work – "Ratljóst." This Icelandic word translates to English as "sufficient light to find one's way."

Hamon's photographs return the viewer to the 19th-century romantic notion that intense emotional states are a pure source of authentic aesthetic experience. This experience, with an emphasis on awe, even terror – especially when confronting the natural beauty of storms and wild landscapes – was thought to elevate human existence to something nobler than the scientific truths emerging from the forming scientific disciplines.

The photos also move the viewer to question connection to place – even places thousands of miles apart – through myriad, complex stories of travel, work, home and heritage.

Hamon's photography will be on display in the MMAC until Oct. 31 and at Montgomery Distillery on West Front Street.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Hamon will present a slide lecture from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, in the Masquer Theatre of the PAR/TV Center. On Tuesday, Oct. 15, the MMAC also will host a panel discussion with artist Eileen Rafferty, theologian and naturalist Rev. Peter Shober and Blackfeet/Métis environmentalist Rosalyn LaPier, moderated by curator Jeremy Canwell, also from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Masquer Theatre. Docent tours are available upon request.

To learn more email Amanda Barr at amanda.barr@umontana.edu. For a listing of hours and exhibitions at the MMAC, visit http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/default.php.

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Three UM Students Earn Gilman Scholarships to Study Abroad

June 27, 2019

MISSOULA – Three University of Montana students recently were awarded prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to study abroad during the 2019-20 academic year.

The scholarship winners are Taylor Gregory, a junior in political science and global leadership from **Lolo**; Allison Grigonis, a senior in management and entrepreneurship and international business from **Kalispell**; and Mason Hutchinson, a junior in psychology from **Missoula**.

Gregory will spend fall semester studying political science at Vesalius College in Brussels, Belgium. He plans to intern with the Honduran Embassy in Brussels once he completes his studies.

Grigonis will study Japanese and business at Sophia University in Tokyo for the 2019-20 academic year. Her goals are to become fluent in Japanese and experience as much of the country and culture as possible while making friends from around the world.

Hutchinson will study psychology at the American College of Greece in Athens for the 2019-20 academic year. He

will do a photojournalistic project focused on the effects of socioeconomic status on mental health in the city following an economic collapse in 2007.

Run by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Gilman Scholarship Program provides grants of up to $5,000 for undergraduate U.S. citizens of limited financial means to study and intern abroad, thereby gaining skills critical to our national security and economic prosperity. The Institute of International Education helps implement the program.

“The Gilman Scholarship is a prestigious grant, and UM is proud to support these students,” said Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry, interim director of the Global Engagement Office. “We want to give a special thanks to the UM Writing Center for collaborating with our office to support these adventurous UM students in their professional development.”

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Community Cultivation

June 27, 2019



New PEAS Farm directors plan to grow community legacy

MISSOULA – On the floor of the Rattlesnake Valley about two miles north of the University of Montana, a 10-acre vegetable farm is speckled with the wide brims of garden hats. Underneath most of the hats are UM students, kneeling, heads down, next to rows of crops.

There is always weeding to be done, as the galinsoga is particularly aggressive this year. Harvest days are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, which farm employees say make for an easy night's rest.

Hands in the soil, these UM students are fully immersed in whole-person education at the intersection of community engagement and experiential learning on the PEAS Farm, jointly operated by UM and Garden City Harvest.

This growing season there is new farm leadership, who say they plan to continue the 20-year legacy of providing healthy local foods to Missoula and meaningful educational experiences to students from UM and local elementary schools.

Caroline Stephens, PEAS Farm lecturer, and Dave Victor, PEAS Farm director, have been named the farm's new co-directors. Josh Slotnick, who started the farm in 1997 near Fort Missoula, has stepped away from the farm after he was elected to a six-year term as a Missoula County commissioner.

Stephens now leads the teaching and educational component of the farm and Victor leads the farm's production program, both in conjunction with Garden City Harvest and UM's Environmental Studies program in the College of Humanities and Sciences. Both Victor and Stephens are alumni of UM's master's degree program in environmental studies.

"It's an honor to continue the magic and the legacy of this place, and the important ways this farm touches so many lives," Victor said. "The food we produce is really just a platform for all of the other wonderful societal and community aspects of the farm. My hat is off to Josh for his original vision for this place, because that's something we really want to protect and nurture."

The farm is host to several community programs including Community Supported Agriculture shares, educational experiences for Missoula elementary school students and a program that teaches local young adults farming skills. Each year, the farm produces about 100,000 pounds of food, of which 15,000 pounds are distributed to the Missoula Food Bank each season.



Both Stephens and Victor say they'll be successful new co-directors of the farm if they can seamlessly continue the farm's production and community value, without customers and partners noticing a difference in a change of leadership.

"The Environmental Studies Program is enthusiastic and confident about the new model of co-leadership that we and Garden City Harvest have designed together for the PEAS Farm," said UM Environmental Studies Program Director Phil Condon. "Caroline and Dave are the ideal team to make this shared vision a reality. The Missoula community and EVST students will all be the beneficiaries of their work as the PEAS Farm continues to evolve and grow, like the living place it is."

At UM, the PEAS Farm provides a co-curricular experience tied directly to the University's environmental studies curriculum by providing a six-credit supervised summer internship as well as two-credit internships in spring and fall. For Stephens, who supervises UM students on the farm and develops a farm internship curriculum, farming naturally includes critical thinking.

"I feel really lucky to be in a position where I'm able to lesson plan, teach, mentor and tie all of those things directly into production at the PEAS Farm," Stephens said. "It's amazing to watch students expand and engage in new concepts and skills and have their farm experience be something pivotal on their respective growth paths."

On any given day in the summer, there are about 15 UM students from diverse majors including business, biological sciences, physics and environmental studies working on the PEAS Farm. The students spend four hours each weekday learning every aspect about of farming from plant cultivation, soil microbiology, weeding, pruning and

trellising, to climate, irrigation and pest management. Two days each week, the students harvest the farm's crops to give to the farm's CSA shareholders and sell at a reduced rate to the Montana Food Bank and other partners.

The authentic experience of learning by doing is something UM junior Holly Hines says has deeply impacted her education.

"I've learned a lot about the importance of attention to detail from my time on the farm," Hines said. "Everything you do at the moment affects something later down the line, whether that's planting or weeding or something else. That kind of thinking about production and processes on the farm has been really interesting."

Hines transferred to UM in January from a university in Minnesota. She said she was drawn to UM's Environmental Studies program and the opportunity to pair her education with hands-on experiences. She also said her internship on the PEAS Farm has yielded new friendships and a sense of community.



For Dylan Brady, a senior studying environmental studies, an internship on the PEAS Farm teaching Missoula youth about food production changed his professional trajectory.

"The farm changed my life, completely," Brady said. "Farming and education with a community impact is what I want to do."

Brady, who says he's inspired by the community impact of the farm, can recall every class title and textbook assigned in his environmental studies classes.

"I use that information everyday up here," he said. "I'm also literally working alongside my professors in the fields and getting to see first-hand the impact of food production and environmental stewardship."

Holding a chicken called Hei Hei named after a Disney movie character, Brady said he encourages students who are looking for an authentic, enriching experience to consider visiting and spending time at the PEAS Farm.

"I would recommend this internship and place to any student who wants an in-depth farm-to-school experience," he said.

###

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UM Family Medicine Residency Program to Graduate 10 New Physicians

June 25, 2019

MISSOULA – Montana, Idaho and other underserved and rural areas will gain 10 new family medicine physicians when the University of Montana's Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana graduates its fourth class on Sunday, June 30.

All 10 of the graduating family physicians have accepted employment, and seven plan to practice in Montana.

"We are very pleased to add to our prior graduates and will now have placed physicians in Browning, Hamilton, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown, Libby, Missoula, Polson, Red Lodge, Ronan and Whitefish," said Dr. Ned Vasquez, program director. "FMRWM graduates also have entered practices in rural communities in California, Idaho and Washington. More than three-fourths of our graduates have remained in Montana, and a similar fraction is practicing in rural and underserved communities."

Montana continues to experience physician shortages, with 54 out of 56 counties considered underserved, and 12 to 13 counties typically left without any kind of physician. When FMRWM accepted its first class in 2013, Montana ranked 50th in the nation for graduate medical education positions per capita. With the creation of FMRWM, the

state has moved to 46th for resident physicians per capita and substantially increased the pipeline for communities to recruit doctors.



The FMRWM Class of 2019 graduates and their future practice sites include:

- Caitlin Blau, Missoula
- Dallas Clark, **Red Lodge**
- Julia Gruetzmacher, Missoula
- Ruben Hipolito, **Kalispell**
- Matt Klippenstein, **Reno, Nevada**
- Rachel LaRocca, **Woodstock, Vermont**
- Madeline Mussman, **Hamilton**
- Karen Vesely, **Whitefish**
- Katie Williams, **Lewistown**
- Kelby Wilson, **Grangeville, Idaho**

Vasquez, who has been the program director since the residency's inception, will retire at the end of this academic year. The current associate program director, Dr. Rob Stenger, will become the new program director beginning July 1 and continue to advance the values and mission of FMRWM. The program is a part of UM's Health and Medicine initiative.

"The goal of UM's Health and Medicine initiative is to train the next generation of health practitioners and researchers, with a focus of not only serving Montana and its needs, but also the world," said UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences Dean Reed Humphrey. "We are pleased to be able to sponsor and work closely with the residency program."

Based in Missoula and Kalispell, FMRWM is sponsored by UM and affiliated with the University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Network. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Residents are involved in continuity clinic training at Partnership Health Center in Missoula and Flathead Community Health Center in Kalispell.

FMRWM works with an extensive rural training network of 10 sites, including Anaconda, Browning, Butte, Dillon, Hamilton, Lewistown, Libby, Plains, Polson and Ronan, and plans to add one to two new rural sites soon. The residency's three primary sponsoring hospitals are Providence St. Patrick Hospital and Community Medical Center in Missoula and Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

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

###

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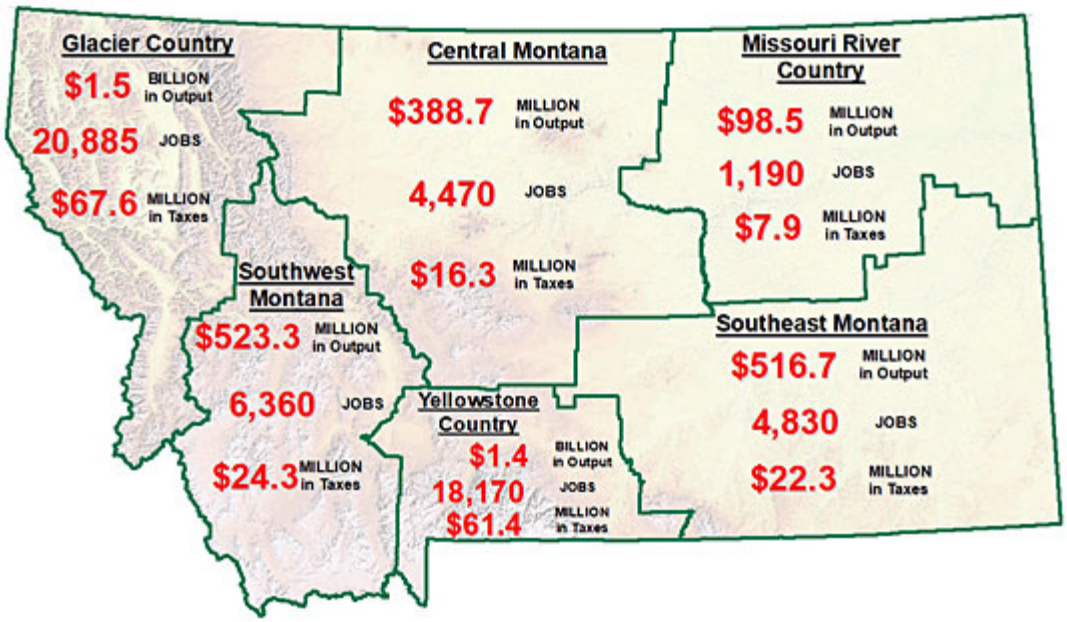
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UM Report: Nonresident Spending in 2018 Up 10.4%

June 24, 2019

MISSOULA – Nonresident travelers spent $3.58 billion throughout Montana in 2018, according to an annual report published by the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. This is a 10.4% increase from the previous year's estimate.

"We see this as a big plus for Montana since our



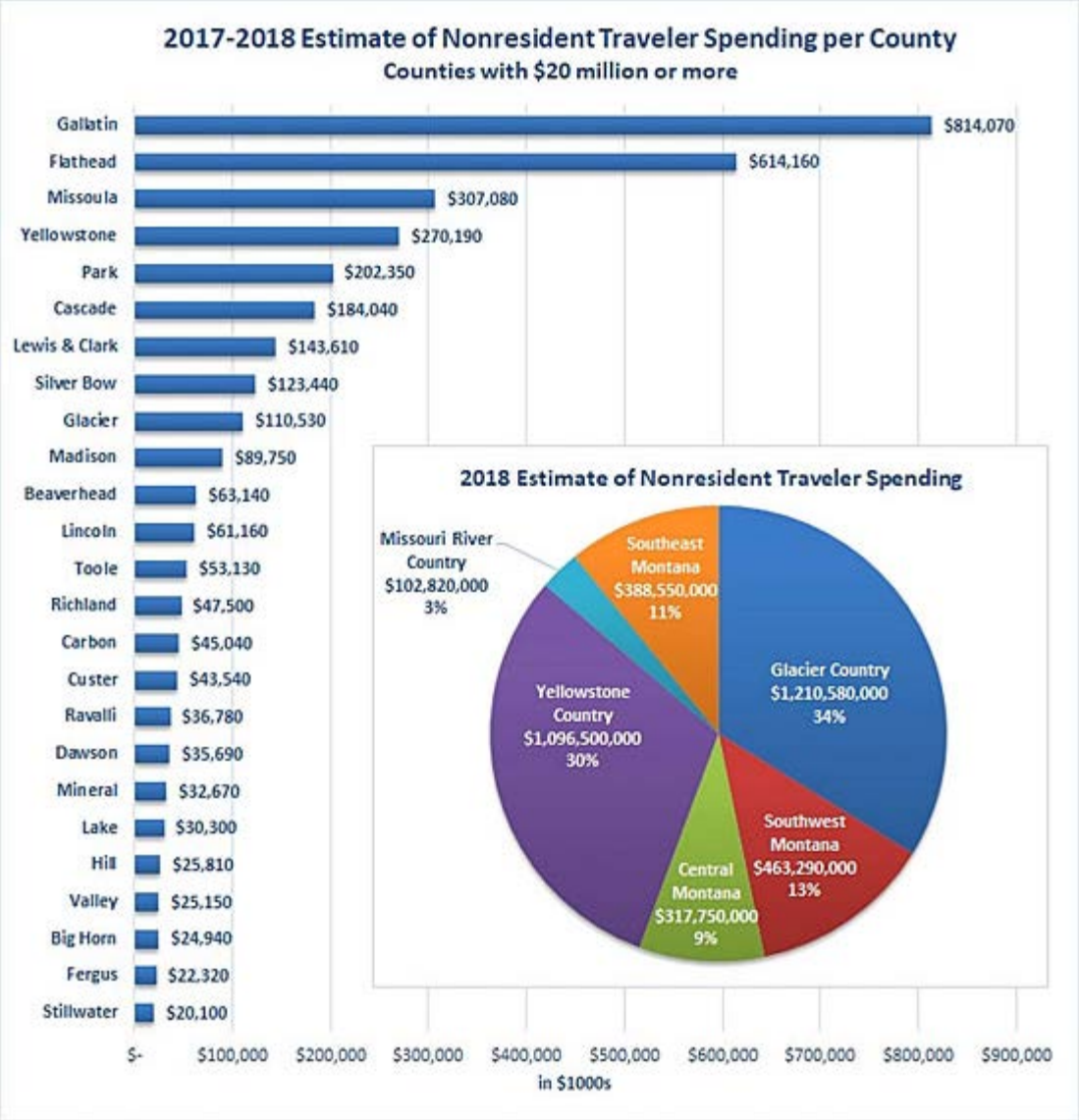
numbers indicate that visitation was relatively flat in 2018, but spending was up," said ITRR Director Norma Nickerson.

Analysis of each of Montana's six travel regions and 14 of the counties with the highest nonresident spending show that visitation and spending are widespread throughout the state and that all regions benefit. The institute calculates spending using an average of 2017 and 2018 nonresident data.

"Nonresidents bring in new money to Montana that helps the overall economy," Nickerson said. "While it is beneficial for the entire state, we have to recognize that Glacier and Yellowstone national parks are a big draw for visitors. Without those iconic parks bringing recognition to Montana, our economy would not be bolstered nearly as much."

She said that relationship to the parks shows in the data. Last year, the Yellowstone Travel Region experienced a 20% increase in nonresident spending, while the Glacier Travel Region had a 12% increase in nonresident spending.

Glacier Country in northwest Montana received over $1.21 billion in spending by nonresident travelers, which equates to 34% of all spending in the state. This travel spending supported a total of $1.53 billion of economic activity and almost 20,900 jobs, along with over $535 million in associated labor income.



In south-central Montana's Yellowstone Country, travel spending by nonresidents totaled nearly $1.1 billion, which was 30% of the state total. This spending supported about $1.39 billion of economic activity. Likewise, over 18,150 jobs and nearly $490 million in labor income can be attributed to this spending.

The remaining 36 percent of travel spending – $1.27 billion – occurred throughout the rest of the state, contributing to jobs, income and economic activity in each region. Thirteen percent ($463 million) of traveler spending took place in southwest Montana, 11% ($389 million) in southeast Montana, 9% ($318 million) in the north central area of the state, and 3% ($103 million) in northeastern Montana's Missouri River Country.

Gallatin County received more than $814 million in nonresident spending, followed by Flathead County ($614 million), Missoula County ($307 million) and Yellowstone County ($270 million). This spending contributes to jobs and other economic activity at the local county level, as well as rippling throughout the state.

"Visitors don't tell us why they are spending more, but when the economy is doing well, travelers have more discretionary money to spend in Montana," Nickerson said. "We are also seeing more spending on experiences such as guided trips rather than items to take home. Experiences tend to cost more."

The full report, including estimates of the economic contribution of nonresident travelers in the other four Montana travel regions, along with county-level estimates, is available on the ITRR website at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/itrr_pubs/391/.

All information and reports published by ITRR are available online at http://www.itrr.umt.edu.

###

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UM Geography Department Joins College of Forestry and Conservation

June 24, 2019

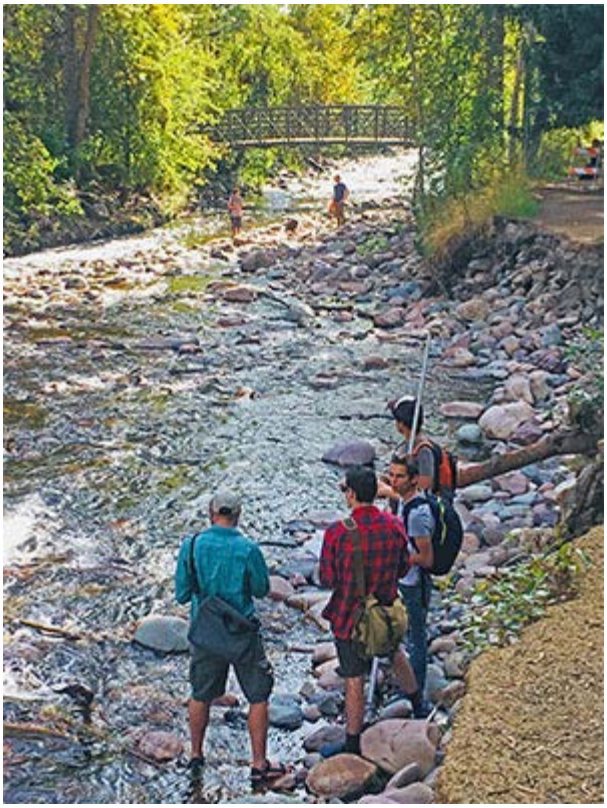
MISSOULA – The Department of Geography will transition from the College of Humanities and Sciences to the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana on July 1.

UM's Department of Geography is home to about 40 undergraduate students and 12 graduate students. Founded in 1956, the department specializes in mountain landscapes, community and environmental planning, and geospatial science and technologies.

Its programs provide a strong educational base while preparing graduates for a wide variety of professional careers, as well as graduate studies in geography, planning, geographic information systems or related fields.

"This is a





great move for the Department of Geography and an exciting development for the college," said Tom DeLuca, forestry college dean. "Adding geography to our college will provide students with an increased breadth of opportunities and catalyze new initiatives and synergies between geography and our existing three departments. I am very excited about this move and the implications it has for building our strengths in geospatial, social and environmental sciences."

The Department of Geography moves as a fully intact department with its current curriculum. All tenured faculty members housed within it will stay with the department and transfer to FCFC, including Professors Anna Klene, Sarah Halvorson, David Shively and Christiane von Reichert. Geography classes will remain open to students in the College of Humanities and Sciences and other campus majors.

The Department of Geography voted as a faculty to join the forestry college in an effort to expand collaborative opportunities and integrate curricular offerings in geospatial analyses, planning, social sciences, earth system studies and other areas. The request received strong faculty support in the forestry college and approval by the Faculty Senate in February and Provost Jon Harbor in March.

"We're really happy to be joining the FCFC this summer," said Dave Shively, geography chair. "Our areas of study and our goals and values closely align with those of the college. As a faculty, we're deeply committed to the success of our students, and we're excited about the increased opportunities and support this transition will offer them."

The forestry college and
Department of Geography



already have strong ties, including an interdisciplinary Certificate in Geographic Information System Sciences & Technologies created in 2007. Three current FCFC faculty and one staff member also hold doctoral degrees in geography.

“Geography is a vibrant and critical area of study, especially in an era of globalization and international connectedness,” said Harbor, geographer as well as UM provost. “This move will strengthen UM’s programs in geography and other disciplines. Students will learn from professors with complementary and relevant expertise, and opportunities for hands-on learning will increase. I look forward to the transdisciplinary courses and scholarship that will inevitably result from this exciting move.”

More information about the transition will be communicated directly with geography majors.

Through innovative teaching, research and service, FCFC empowers society and its future leaders to better understand and more effectively conserve, restore and sustain complex social-ecological systems in the Rocky Mountains and beyond. Founded in 1913, the college now has 41 faculty members and serves about 814 undergraduate and graduate students. Beginning July 1, it will offer six undergraduate degrees, nine graduate degrees, five minors and three certificates spread across four departments.

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UM Launches Montana American Indian Math and Science Program

June 24, 2019

By Nathalie Wolfram
UM News Service

Rows of hollow computer towers lay sideways on desks in a small lecture hall in the University of Montana's James E. Todd Building this week. Nineteen students, all rising seventh and eighth graders, hunch over the towers, delicately fitting RAM into place. Each



student is building his or her own computer to take home at the end of a two-week summer camp.

Aaron Thomas, associate professor of chemistry and director of Indigenous Research and STEM Education at UM, circulates among the students, answering questions and helping them troubleshoot.

The students make up the first cohort of the Montana American Indian Math and Science Program (MT-AIMS), a donor-funded program designed to promote Native American student retention and academic achievement in math and science. Fourteen of the students traveled from Montana's Blackfeet Reservation and five from the Navajo Nation. All have the opportunity to continue in the program through their first year in college, with new cohorts joining each year.

During their stay at UM, the students take part in hands-on STEM activities led by UM faculty and experience college life: sleeping in dorms, hiking the M Trail and going on excursions to community events like Missoula's Out to Lunch and eating in the Food Zoo. One camper proudly reported that he struck up a conversation with a table of UM football players and got to eat lunch with them.

The program is modeled on the successful, long-running Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP), which works to increase Alaska Native representation in STEM education and careers with intensive programming for students from sixth grade through higher education.

Thomas, who has been associated with ANSEP for a decade, describes Alaska's program as one of the few successful models in engaging Native students in STEM that works directly with students from sixth grade through graduate school.

"I wanted to build upon their success and bring their model to Montana," he said.

Melanie Magee, Browning Public Schools'



GEAR UP coordinator, traveled with Thomas in 2018 to the National Science Foundation's ANSEP Dissemination Conference, where they received further training on ANSEP's model.

"As Native people, we're naturally scientists, but somehow this gets lost," Magee said. This is an opportunity to change that by strengthening students' base in STEM, giving them opportunities to explore and showing them that science is fun. It boosts their confidence."

Programs like MT-AIMS are vital, Magee said, because students in rural communities like hers don't have the same level of access to out-of-school enrichment and pre-college programming as their urban peers.

In addition to learning about STEM and higher education, the students build a sense of camaraderie and teamwork.

Camp counselor Stephan Chase is an UM alumnus and member of the Navajo Nation who is returning to UM this fall as a graduate student. "It's really cool to see how these kids work. If they get stuck, others are like, "'Oh, I can help,'" he said.

By building their own computer, the students develop practical STEM skills while creating an actual tool to support their educational success. After successfully fitting a part into place, one student propped the still partial machine upright, ran his hand across it, and said, "This is a beautiful machine."

Dean Jenny McNulty of UM's College of Humanities and Sciences, a partner on the program, said the residential program has long-term benefits.

"MT-AIMS is an important program for UM as it provides important training for pre-college students and because it is held here on the campus, it allows students to imagine themselves here in the future as college students," she said.

Additional partners include UM's W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation and Browning Public Schools.

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Undergraduate Women Convene for Montana Leadership Institute

June 21, 2019

MISSOULA – Undergraduate women from across the state will participate in the third annual Montana NEW Leadership Institute June 23-27 at the University of Montana. The weeklong residential program seeks to educate, empower and encourage college women to become politically active and to take on leadership roles.

Students will meet local, statewide and national leaders and develop leadership skills through discussions, workshops and hands-on projects. Participants are encouraged to develop their leadership skills and share what they have learned in their respective communities. The program is part of the national bipartisan NEW Leadership program, developed by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

"We are fortunate to house a program to advance the role of women across our state," said Dr. Sara Rinfret, academic



director of the Montana NEW Institute. “It allows our students to be part of a nationally recognized cohort of women to advance their leadership skills.”

Women are widely underrepresented in state and national political offices. Only 30% of Montana’s state legislators are women, and none of the state’s national congressional delegation are women. Nationally, women hold only 28.8% of state legislative seats and 23.7% of congressional seats.

Despite these numbers, women demonstrate great interest in politics, Rinfret said. Leadership skill training like the Montana NEW Leadership Program may help women bridge the gap between political interest and political leadership.

The program parallels UM’s SEA Change initiative, a dedicated campaign to provide a safe and empowering campus for all women and a community that accelerates lives of impact. The SEA Change initiative works to promote programs that remove societal barriers that prevent women from leading empowered lives and embraces opportunities that promote equality for women.

Applicants selected for the program and their home institution are listed below.

- Blackfeet Community College participants include Katarina Walter, freshman.
- Carroll College participants include Elizabeth Hodgson, junior; Katherine Anderson, junior; Eleanor Ferrone, freshman; Samantha Turdeau, junior; and Clare Fogarty, junior.
- Montana State University participants include Allison Reinhardt, sophomore, and Amelia Maria McGrath, junior.
- MSU-Havre participants include Jaclyn Bates, junior, and Erika Anderson, sophomore.
- Rocky Mountain College participants include Kenya Straley, junior.
- UM participants include Sophia French, junior; Chloe Loeffelholz, sophomore; and Clare Woody, freshman.
- University of Providence in Great Falls participants include Kyla Harntell, junior.
- UM Western participants include Courtney George, junior, and Chloe Hanser, sophomore.
- Western Washington University participants include Natalie Wagler, freshman.

The program is led by Rinfret of the UM Department of Public Administration and Policy; Deena Mansour, administrative director of UM’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center; and Political Director Representative Kimberly Dudik of Montana House District 94.

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.

More information is available online at http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/academics/newleadership/default.php

###

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‘Threshold’ Podcast Receives National Murrow Award

June 19, 2019

MISSOULA – The second season of the radio program and podcast “Threshold,” produced by Montana Public Radio and Auricle Productions, has received a 2019 National Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio Television on Digital News Association for Outstanding News Series.

“We are so happy to hear that our hard work on ‘Threshold: Cold Comfort’ has been recognized,” said “Threshold” executive producer Amy Martin. “We wanted to document how people in the Arctic are dealing with climate change.”

Martin and fellow producer Nick Mott traveled to all eight Arctic countries to tell the story of the



effects of climate change and melting sea ice. The podcast team, including Mott, Rachel Cramer, Nora Saks and others, produced 13 episodes for this second season of their show.

“Our journey was to find out what the Arctic is, how it is changing and why that matters,” Martin said.

Each year, the Radio Television Digital News Association announces the winners of the 2019 National Murrow Awards. From more than 4,600 entries, these awards recognize 100 local and network radio, television and digital news organizations for 122 examples of outstanding journalism in 16 categories.

From excellence in technical aspects of multimedia news to innovation, engagement and investigation, these pieces exemplify the best of broadcast and digital journalism today. Earlier this year, “Threshold” received the regional Murrow Award.

“The RTDNA National Edward R. Murrow Awards recognize local and national news stories that uphold our code of ethics, demonstrate technical expertise and exemplify the importance and impact of journalism as a service to the community,” said Dan Shelley, RTDNA executive director. “Winning a Murrow Award means that a news organization has provided exemplary public service to its viewers, listeners and readers.”

“Threshold” season two was made possible with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, Montana Public Radio and hundreds of listeners. Learn more at https://www.thresholdpodcast.org/.

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.

###

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Visiting Humphrey Fellows at UM Hold Community Dialogues

June 19, 2019

MISSOULA – The community is invited to dialogue sessions with visiting international Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows, hosted by the University of Montana's Global Engagement Office.

The Humphrey Fellows are midcareer professionals from around the world chosen for their leadership potential and commitment to public service. They work in diverse fields, including human rights, resource conservation, urban



planning, peace-building, public health and more. The Fellows receive 10 months of non-degree academic study and related professional experience in the U.S.

Two to three Fellows will present about their home country and their professional work, followed by a group discussion, during the community dialogues from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays, June 20-July 18, at the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center. The events are free.

The schedule follows:

- **June 20:** “Educational Policy,” by Bunnath Phann of Cambodia, Julio Perez of El Salvador and Pierre Dupenor of Haiti.
- **June 27:** “Community Development,” by Beyo Yves of Chad, Martin Pio Faki of South Sudan and Rommel Reconco of Honduras.
- **July 11:** “Public Health Policy,” by Mexan Mapouka of Central African Republic and Imdad Baloch of Pakistan.
- **July 18:** “Natural Resources and Environmental Policy,” by Alain Georges Moukoko of Gabon, Hlaing Hlaing Htoon of Myanmar and Zuomei Ning of China.

Learn more about the 2019 Fellows on UM’s Global Engagement Office website.

UM is the only university in the U.S. to offer long-term intensive English language training to Humphrey Fellows. Learn more about the Humphrey Fellows program online.

###

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UM to Light Main Hall in Honor of Big Sky Pride Week

June 18, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will illuminate Main Hall in rainbow colors in honor of Big Sky Pride Week.

Big Sky Pride Week celebrates Montana's LGBTQIA+ community in a series of events held Monday through Friday, June 17-21.

UM will commemorate the week by illuminating Main Hall from 9 to 11 p.m. on the evenings of Thursday through Saturday, June 20-22. The public is invited to visit campus and view the lighting.



“The lighting signifies UM’s support for our LGBTQIA+ community and more broadly signals our commitment to equality for all,” said UM President Seth Bodnar.

Bondar said Big Sky Pride Week provides an opportunity for UM to affirm its commitment to:

- Respecting the dignity and ensuring the safety of all.
- Celebrating civil rights progress.
- Removing the still profound headwinds in our fight for equality for all.
- Affirming the valuable existence of our LGBTQIA+ colleagues, friends and peers.

“I am very proud of the advocates and allies who advance our mission to provide access to a quality education and who recognize the potential for all to positively impact society,” Bodnar said. “The more inclusive we are, the more we all benefit.”

The campus last illuminated Main Hall in 2016 to honor victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida.

Monte, UM students and employees also will represent UM at the Big Sky Pride Parade set for Saturday, June 22, in Helena.

###

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UM Computer Science Researcher Lands Prestigious Early Career Grant

June 18, 2019

MISSOULA – Dr. Oliver Serang, a University of Montana assistant professor of computer science, recently was awarded the National Science Foundation's most prestigious award for junior faculty.

The Faculty Early Career Development Program, also known as CAREER, annually awards faculty members across the nation who exemplify the role of teacher-scholar through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of both education and research.

Serang's CAREER grant will total $1.05 million. He will use the funding to address unmet computer science needs in analyzing mass spectrometry data.

Specifically, his research team will work to statistically identify proteins in a biological sample, as well as reveal which biological species or



bacterial and viral strains are in a sample. The team also will try to identify the makeup of basic molecular ingredients in a sample.

“We often think of DNA and genomics as the be-all and end-all for advancing biology and medicine,” Serang said. “But since you started from a single cell, essentially every cell in your body is genetically identical. The mathematical algorithms we develop are key to uncovering what differentiates a bone cell from a liver cell and to the future of diagnostic medicine, where we develop the ability to diagnose infectious diseases using only a drop of blood.”

He said this approach can be used to learn about chemical structure without any prior knowledge of what’s in the sample.

CAREER grants are highly prestigious awards that provide foundational support to early career faculty who have the potential to serve as role models in research and education. Such awards enable a lifetime of leadership in integrating education with research. Each year, between 350 and 400 assistant professors nationally earn CAREER grants.

“Dr. Serang is an impressive new faculty member in computer science whose approach to research is highly interdisciplinary – a trait that is essential in solving the problems of the future,” said Jenny McNulty, dean of UM’s College of Humanities and Sciences. “His work uses tools from mathematics to develop fast algorithms that often have applications in biology. In receiving this award, he joins the ranks of the top scientists at UM who have gone on to have very successful careers, and I look forward to seeing how he advances the field of combinatorial algorithms.”

The approaches used by Serang’s lab will be used for a new season of the “Exploring Scientific Wilderness” podcast, as well as an intuitive curriculum for teaching combinatorics in K-12 schools. (Combinatorics refers to coming up with ways to efficiently count things.) These fun exercises will be taught in Montana schools, and instruction plans will be posted online for free use by teachers and parents around the world.

The public may follow Serang’s research at https://alg.cs.umt.edu/nsf-career.html. For more information about the

CAREER program, visit http://bit.ly/2Zr63Rp.

###

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Cell Structure Linked to Longevity of Slow-Growing Ponderosa Pines

June 18, 2019

MISSOULA – Slow-growing ponderosa pines may have a better chance of surviving longer than fast-growing ones, especially as climate change increases the frequency and intensity of drought, according to new research from the University of Montana.

Researchers found that ponderosa longevity



might hinge on the shape of microscopic valve-like structures between the cells that transport water through the tree.

The study, led by UM alumna Beth Roskilly and Professor Anna Sala, was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences this week. The researchers sampled growth rates of ponderosa pine trees of varying ages at two remote sites in Idaho. They also studied structural traits of the trees' xylem – vascular tissue that transports water and minerals through the wood and provides structural support.

Their findings reveal that some young trees grow quickly while others grow slowly. But old ponderosa pine trees – those older than 350 years – are slow growers compared to younger trees, and these individual trees have always been slow growing, even when they were young.

In contrast to predictions, slow-growing trees, whether old or young, did not produce denser, tougher wood, which might have made the trees more resistant to disease or decay. Instead, a key difference between fast and slow growers resides in a microscopic valve-like structure between the cells that transport water in the wood, called the pit membrane. The unique shape of this valve in slow-growing trees provides greater safety against drought, but it slows down water transport, limiting growth rate.

"Ponderosa pines, like people, cannot have it all," said Roskilly, the paper's lead author. "Drought resistance contributes to longevity but also to slow growth. In other words, there is a fundamental tradeoff based on xylem structure. Our study suggests that trees with fast growth become large quickly, which can be beneficial for young trees competing for resources, but they are more vulnerable to drought and can die at earlier ages. On the other hand, trees that grow slowly are more drought resistant, which enhances longevity."

Roskilly earned her UM master's degree in organismal biology, ecology and evolution in 2018, and the study is a result of her degree work in UM's College of Humanities and Sciences.

"Ancient trees are special for many reasons," said Sala, a professor in UM's Division of Biological Sciences and an adjunct professor in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. "They are beautiful, they make the

highest quality musical instruments, they help maintain diversity, and they store atmospheric carbon in wood for a long time. But the results of this research also suggest they are special because forest managers cannot make just any ponderosa pine tree live for centuries no matter how hard they try. For ponderosa pines to become centennials, their wood must possess this unique structure."

Other co-authors in the study include UM alumnus Eric Keeling, a professor at the State University of New York; UM alumna Sharon Hood, a research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service; and Arnaud Giuggiola, a former visiting master's student from the University of Bordeaux. This project built on dissertation work by Keeling and began as an undergraduate research project started by Roskilly.

The article, "Conflicting functional effects of xylem pit structure relate to the growth-longevity trade-off in a conifer species" can be accessed online at http://bit.ly/2wZWTyZ.

###

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UM Observatory Summer Stargazing Nights Begin July 5

June 17, 2019

MISSOULA – Community members can explore planets, nebulas, star clusters and distant galaxies this summer during stargazing nights at the University of Montana's Blue Mountain Observatory.

The observatory sits atop Blue Mountain at an elevation of 6,300 feet. Astronomers from UM and the Western Montana Astronomical Association will guide visitors in viewing the night sky through telescopes, point out constellations, show attendees how to find interesting celestial objects with the naked eye or a pair of binoculars, and discuss recent astronomical discoveries.

The events are family friendly, and people of all ages are welcome. Free public events take place July 5, Aug. 2, Aug. 23 and Sept. 27. Attendance is limited to 150 people per night.

Blue Mountain Observatory also will offer some limited attendance nights for those who would like a more personal experience. Limited attendance nights occur June 29, July 27, Aug. 24, Aug. 31 and Sept. 21. Tickets for these nights cost $20 per person, and attendance is limited to 25 people or fewer.

All attendees are required to reserve a ticket for each person in their group via Eventbrite at http://bit.ly/2I8DJNZ. More information is available on the observatory website with detailed directions and a useful map.

Observing begins about an hour after sunset. Participants should wear warm clothes for cool evenings and bring a flashlight for the walk from the parking area to the observatory. Smoking and alcohol are strictly prohibited at all events.

For the 2019 season, the Department of Physics and Astronomy will team up with spectrUM Discovery Area, UM's hands-on science center, to help facilitate these viewing events.

"We are delighted to partner with the UM students who help to make these events such an amazing success," said spectrUM's Nick Wethington. "SpectrUM also is excited to add our expertise in sharing science with the general public as we help to coordinate an exciting summer full of evenings under the stars."

Viewing nights will be canceled if the sky is cloudy or smoky or if thunderstorms are predicted. Before heading to the observatory, look for weather or cancellation updates on the Blue Mountain Observatory Facebook page or call 406-243-2073. A final update will go out the evening of the observation to registered attendees who have provided their email address.

For more information consult the Blue Mountain website, email BMO@mso.umt.edu or leave a voice message at 406-243-2073.

###

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UM Hosts Life-changing Program for People with Spinal Cord Injuries

June 14, 2019

MISSOULA – At the University of Montana, seven recently injured individuals with paraplegia or quadriplegia are completing an immersive week of rehabilitation, recreational activity and mentorship on navigating life with a spinal cord injury.

UM is hosting the volunteer-based Empower Spinal Cord Injury Inc., a program dedicated to empowering those with spinal cord injuries to live happier, more meaningful and independent lives. Empower SCI pairs newly injured spinal cord participants with mentors who have learned to thrive with similar injuries.

For the past six days, the participants were supported by a specialized volunteer team of occupational and physical therapists, personal care aides and nurses as they engaged in activities like fishing, kayaking,



yoga, wheelchair rugby, educational sessions and rehabilitation counseling.

It is the first time the East Coast-based program is being held outside of its home campus of Stony Brook University in New York.

Anita Santasier, chair of UM's School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, has been involved with the program since it was created eight years ago by physical therapists Carrie Callahan and Jessica Goodine and occupational therapist Elizabeth Lima.

Once at UM, Santasier knew she wanted to bring the Empower SCI program and staff to Montana for a summer session. She said the experience is transformative for everyone involved and embodies UM's commitment to inclusivity and access in its health sciences curriculum.

"After acute care in the hospital following a spinal cord injury, people often don't get the depth of how to fully reorient their lives with a life-changing injury," Santasier said. "At Empower SCI, everyone learns something from each other. It's truly a unique experience for the participants and staff, and we're so excited to bring the Empower SCI program out West."

At UM, seven participants with spinal cord injuries are spending the week in Panzer Hall, a fully accessible residence hall on the UM campus.

Participants undergo training and mentorship in vocational coaching, disability rights, transportation and counseling on relationships and wellness. But perhaps most importantly, they spend the week in a community of experienced wheelchair users as they learn to



navigate the challenges and nuances of living with a spinal cord injury.

“What we continually hear from participants is the overwhelming feedback that they learn better ways for life to go on after a spinal cord injury,” Santasier said. “There’s resilience and an energy that is created that participants take with them and the program creates a lifelong connectedness.”

Students from UM, together with others from out of the area, spend the week with participants as aides, learning the intensity of care required of primary care attendants 24 hours a day, including overnight. They also are trained in emergency and hygiene care.

“Having our UM students experience the level of care required for those living with these kind of injuries fits our model of experiential learning, learning to view health care on a continuum and engaging in team treating in a multidisciplinary care model,” Santaiser said.

Participants’ experiences and therapies are driven by a set of self-directed goals. Santasier said those goals range from learning how to independently catheterize, roll over in bed without help, or transfer from floor to wheelchair, to name just a few.

Michelle Cole is a level-two trauma program manager at Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula. Her son has a spinal cord injury, and is thriving as an independent business owner. Cole and two other nurses volunteered for the Empower program at UM. With her personal experience and more than 10 years of working as a nurse in intensive care units, Cole knows firsthand that the first year following a spinal cord injury is the most challenging.

“The entire first year is very difficult,” Cole said. “There’s grieving and learning your new normal and adapting to an entire new way of life. When we learned UM was going to



host this important program, we wanted immediately to participate in an interactive way and partner with the University."

Missoula-based nurses from Providence St. Patrick Hospital, UM physical therapy faculty and alumni, and UM students in physical therapy, psychology, exercise science, nursing, and speech language pathology, along with students from other institutions, are providing rehabilitation care in a variety of weeklong recreational activities. UM also welcomed health care professionals from more than 10 states to volunteer for the program.

Santasier said former Empower SCI participants are business owners, disability advocates, health care providers and many of them return as Empower SCI peer mentors.

The all-volunteer team, along with its Missoula partners, includes Providence St. Patrick Hospital, Summit Independent Living, Missoula Parks and Recreation and UM Dining, Housing, Transportation and Event Services, all of which collaborated to create a seamless and safe experience.

Participants in the Empower SCI program apply about six months in advance. There is a fee to attend the all-volunteer program, and scholarships and funding are greatly needed. For more information visit https://www.empowersci.org/ or call 315-427-2504.

###

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Harvard Scholars Explore Environmental Public Health at UM

June 13, 2019



MISSOULA – A prestigious group of scholars visited the University of Montana this week as part of a Harvard program to address social and environmental health disparities that disproportionately impact vulnerable communities.

Fourteen junior faculty and research scientists

from universities and
federal agencies across the United States are here as part of the JPB Environmental Health Fellowship Program.

The program supports a new generation of environmental health scholars committed to developing solutions and supporting policy changes that address environmental, social and economic health disparities in the United States. They engage in rigorous interdisciplinary research on the social and physical determinants of environmental health disparities in vulnerable communities.

Dr. Annie Belcourt is a UM associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and School of Public and Community Health Sciences. Her doctoral training is in clinical psychology, and she studies health disparities in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Belcourt was a member of the Harvard program's first cohort, an honor that included $350,000 to support research here in Montana.

"It's a really unique opportunity for UM to host a diverse group of Fellows who are really working to transform the lives and health of people throughout the nation," said Belcourt, who has Blackfeet, Chippewa, Mandan and Hidatsa tribal affiliations. "They came to UM because I'm a former Fellow, and they rotate the workshops to different locations that have unique health challenges."

In Montana, those challenges include wildfire smoke and health issues that disproportionately impact Native communities. Belcourt said the Fellows attended presentations by UM researchers, including Erica Woodahl, who studies precision medicine for tribal communities, and Chris Migliaccio, who studies the effects of wildfire smoke on human health in the Seeley-Swan area.

The Fellows also were hosted by tribal council members at the Flathead Indian Reservation.

"We had an amazing picture-book Montana day yesterday, with bear, elk, bison, eagles and a crane all making an appearance," Belcourt said. "Bringing a group like this to UM and Montana offers a lot of advantages in terms of collaboration, learning from one another and becoming inspired by what others are doing."

To learn more about the JPB Environmental Health Fellowship Program, visit https://ehfellows.sph.harvard.edu/.

###

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UM Names New Cohort for Women’s Leadership Initiative

June 11, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana announces 12 women representing UM and the Missoula Federal Credit Union as the 2019 class of the Women’s Leadership Initiative.

A cohort-based program that focuses on the importance of women in leadership, the WLI program uses a



collaborative approach, network building and professional training to build a culture of support for women's leadership training.

The initiative is supported by Missoula Federal Credit Union and private donors, modelling a public-private partnership that will benefit both the University and the wider Missoula community.

Initially launched in 2015, UM President Seth Bodnar restored WLI earlier this year as an integral program under UM's S.E.A. Change initiative, an emphatic effort to power a societal sea change that promotes the safety, empowerment and acceleration of all women. S.E.A. Change seeks to identify and remove barriers to gender

approaches in 2020.

"Advancing the equality for all is central to our focus and mission at UM," Bodnar said. "We are inspired by the candidates for this year's cohort of our Women's Leadership Initiative, and we look forward to the positive community outcomes and benefits generated when investments are made in women's leadership and advancement."

The WIL 2019 cohort members are:

- Alison Pepper, associate professor in the Department of Applied Arts and Sciences, UM Missoula College.
- Amy Fowler Kinch, director, UM Faculty Development Office.
- Erika Sylvester, financial service representative supervisor, Missoula Federal Credit Union.
- Jasmine Zink Laine, policy and culture manager, UM Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.
- Jeanne Loftus, director, UM Franke Global Leadership Initiative.
- Jennifer Bell, assistant professor, UM School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science.
- Ke Wu, associate professor, UM Department of Mathematical Sciences.
- Melissa Neidigh, associate director of operations, UM Housing
- Rachel Maki, community engagement coordinator, Missoula Federal Credit Union.
- Rachel Severson, assistant professor, UM Department of Psychology.

- Sara Rinfret, associate professor and chair, UM Department of Public Administration and Policy.
- Twila Old Coyote, director, UM TRiO Upward Bound.

UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center hosts the WLI program, and it will be coordinated by Dr. Nicky Phear. Deena Mansour, the center's executive director, was the founding director of WLI and will remain as a lead adviser. Additional program support will be provided by Dr. Christine Fiore as a faculty adviser and Claudine Cellier and Kelly Webster as strategic advisers.

###

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UM Hires Next Education College Dean

June 06, 2019

MISSOULA – Dr. Adrea Lawrence, an educational historian, has been named dean of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education at the University of Montana. Lawrence has served as interim dean for the past 17 months, and she officially will transition to the permanent position July 1.

“Dr. Lawrence already has spearheaded transformative changes at the college, such as completing the expansion of the Phyllis J. Washington Education Center and leading multiple efforts to drive excellence and innovation in teaching, learning and research,” UM Provost Jon Harbor said. “Through thoughtful collaboration and inspiring vision, we expect her to build on the college’s legacy of excellence in shaping generations of future educators in Montana and beyond.”

A self-described agent of change, Lawrence has developed extensive networks of stakeholders across the state and region.



She is co-founder and president of the Montana Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and served on the statewide Rural Education Taskforce last year.

“I appreciate the opportunity to lead one of the best education colleges in the Pacific Northwest,” Lawrence said. “This is a college with a history of excellence, we just completed another amazing expansion to our building, and we have some exciting things planned for the future.”

Her success in working collaboratively was highlighted by the recent awarding of a third $1.5 million grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation focused on 21st century teaching and learning. With the grant, UM and Missoula County Public Schools will continue nine different initiatives, ranging from Universal Design for Learning to Arts Integration.

Lawrence already is leading her college through internal changes. Earlier this year, as a result of UM reorganization, the departments of health and human performance and speech, language and hearing sciences moved their administrative homes to UM’s College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. As a result, the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences became the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education.

Lawrence said she intends to:

- increase support for early childhood education through the creation of the Montana Early Childhood Institute and the expansion of UM’s Learning and Belonging Preschool – the hands-on training center for UM’s early childhood education majors.

- focus on instructional design opportunities so future educators excel at teaching online as well as face to face. “It’s a skill that’s critical in a rural state like ours,” she said.

- expand the use of technology such as videoconferencing, robots and virtual reality to give more learners access to the college’s programs.

In addition, Lawrence will help the education college play a critical role in the University's Teaching Excellence Initiative, which is designed to support UM students and their learning.

Born and raised in rural Colorado, Lawrence earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy studies from Indiana University, and a master's degree in secondary social studies instruction and curriculum and bachelor's degree in American studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

She launched her career in education as a high school social studies teacher in Colorado. Her doctoral research focused on the implementation of educational policy within a Native American community in New Mexico in the early 1900s, and her interests in history and policy led her to focus on how people learn and how they apply what they learn. Her research also explored how education policy affects people over generations and how scholars communicate their research and discoveries.

Lawrence served on the faculty of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and American University in Washington, D.C., before joining UM in 2013. She earned tenure and promotion to full professor within the Department of Teaching and Learning and served as department chair before accepting the position of interim dean. She is the founder, curator and co-editor of the online journal Education's Histories.

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UM Advances Health Research Through Center for Translational Medicine

June 06, 2019

MISSOULA – Two University of Montana researchers recently earned grants to investigate projects with a strong potential to impact human health.

The Center for Translational Medicine at UM awarded $50,000 pilot research grants to Dr. Mark Grimes and Dr. Jack Nunberg after their competitive project proposal and pitches this spring.

Grimes, a professor in the



Division of Biological Sciences in the College of Humanities and Sciences at UM, will use the grant to evaluate new methods of growing craniofacial cartilage from human stem cells. His lab's groundbreaking research discovery could enable three-dimensional printing of complex biological scaffolds, allowing the patient's own cells that make cartilage to form key structural features of the head and face. This discovery could have a profound impact on people suffering from birth defects or injuries of the face where reconstructive surgery is required.

Nunberg, the director of the Montana Biotechnology Center at UM, is using his award to advance a vaccine candidate targeting Junín virus, an endemic arenavirus in rodent populations that can cause life-threatening hemorrhagic fevers in humans. Arenaviruses are an emerging pathogen recognized as a Category A priority pathogen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The current vaccine, which is not approved in the U.S., is effective but not ideal for widespread use due to safety concerns.

Nunberg has figured out how to improve the safety of the vaccine, and the grant allows him to take the next step to advance the new vaccine candidate.

UM established its Center for Translational Medicine in 2016 as an interdisciplinary research center to help faculty, staff and students take research ideas from the lab into practice. The center promotes the expansion of educational programs in translational medicine and career development opportunities in the health care



and pharmaceutical industries.

The center is expanding entrepreneurial programs at the University and building a new community to meet challenges and adapt to changing health care and biotech fields, as well as an evolving research funding landscape. This new culture and community will help prepare students for careers in the biotechnology or health care industries and open doors to new sources of revenue in support of translational research and education at UM.

Dr. Scott Whittenburg, the UM vice president for research and creative scholarship who was instrumental in establishing the center, said the University already is seeing increased research funding, new opportunities for students and international research under the direction of Dr. Jay Evans.

“Dr. Evans and his group in the CTM have far exceeded my expectations in driving translational medicine and commercialization at UM,” Whittenburg said. “The center has become the focal point for faculty across several departments at the University in active areas of research.”

For more information on the center and its latest grant awardees, visit http://hs.umt.edu/ctm/.

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Baucus Papers Open for Research at UM's Mansfield Library

June 05, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – Portions of the official archives of Ambassador Max Sieben Baucus are now open for research at the University of Montana's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library.

Baucus' archives, officially called the Max S. Baucus Papers, serve as evidence of a career spent in public service, and provide a window into the day-to-day life and work of a member of Congress.

Baucus was Montana's longest serving senator, holding the office from 1978 to 2014. He also served one term in the Montana House of Representatives (1973-74), two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives (1975-78) and nearly three years as the U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China (2014-17).

During his time in politics, Baucus was instrumental in various



From Archives & Special Collections, Mansfield Library, University of Montana

local and national environmental initiatives and worked extensively on transportation, trade and economic issues. Notable achievements include the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century of 1998, the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act of 2013, securing federal recognition and support for the asbestos crisis in Libby and facilitating the Montana Economic Development Summit from 2000 to 2013. He chaired the Senate Finance Committee from 2007 to 2014.

UM's Political Papers Archivist Natalie Bond, who organized the archives, said the Baucus Papers "are a rich and complex collection of materials that provide deep insights into the changing political and cultural nature of American society."

As part of her work to make the collection available for research, Bond created a guide to the Max S. Baucus Papers. That guide is available online at http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv613219. A selection of Baucus' speeches and photographs is available at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/max_baucus_papers/.

"Congressional collections are an important component of transparency between the government and the people," said Barry Brown, interim dean of libraries at UM. "The Baucus Papers provide valuable documentation of issues of interest to Montanans and the nation. We are grateful to Ambassador Baucus for placing his archives at the University of Montana."

Donna McCrea, head of Archives and Special Collections at UM, noted that these newly available materials are a significant addition to more than a century of Montana congressional history held in UM's archives.

The materials that have been opened for research cover the entirety of Baucus' political career and include speeches, photographs, press releases, floor statements and sponsored and co-sponsored bills. Speeches serve as a direct link between Baucus' legislative work and the public, reflecting his communication style and connection to his constituents. Press materials highlight topical areas of concern for Montana residents. Similarly, floor statements and sponsored and co-sponsored bills shed light on the development of policy and legislation at a national level, while photographs serve as a visual representation of a career spent in public service. Materials which are not yet open for research include constituent correspondence.

In addition to depositing his archives with UM, Ambassador Baucus also established the Max S. Baucus Institute in UM's Alexander Blewett III School of Law. The institute continues the tradition of public service embodied by Baucus' career through the Baucus Leaders Program, Summer Study Abroad Program in China, a public lecture series and other programming.

The Max S. Baucus Papers are available to the public at Archives and Special Collections in UM's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library. An exhibit featuring photographs and other content from the collection is on display at the Mansfield Library through June 18.

For more information call Donna McCrea, head of Archives and Special Collections, at 406-243-4403 or email donna.mccrea@umontana.edu.

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Murdock Grant Pairs UM Faculty, Frenchtown Teacher for Trout Research

June 05, 2019

UM News Service

MISSOULA – University of Montana assistant professor of fisheries and conservation genomics Andrew Whiteley and Frenchtown science teacher Julia Crocker are collaborating on a summer research project that could help improve the longevity of threatened cutthroat trout populations.

Their work is supported by a $15,000 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust as part of its Partners in Science program that pairs high school teachers with university professors to engage in research projects.

Crocker, who teaches biology and ecology at Frenchtown High School, will work with Whiteley's UM research team in the lab and the field to research "genetic rescue" of westslope cutthroat trout in Montana. The promising conservation approach involves moving a small number of individual fish from one population to another to enhance genetic diversity. One of two subspecies of native cutthroat in Montana, westslope cutthroat trout are declining in the state.

Crocker will share knowledge and her experience with her students over the course of the multiyear research project.

“The experience will benefit my students because I will see firsthand the way science is best learned,” she said. She also hopes to build a strong relationship with UM so she can provide opportunities to attend field trips and lectures to her students.

The possibility for an ongoing connection also excites Whiteley, a faculty member in UM’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation.

“The teaching opportunity will extend to UM,” Whiteley explained. “In the fall, two UM graduate students will join me in visiting Julia’s classroom to help bring new content to her students.”

This marks the 30th year of M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust’s participation in Partners in Science. As a part of the program, the trust hosts a national conference each January where teachers like Crocker present their research results and network with others from across the United States.

“Our goal is to improve science education and change the habits of teaching to be more inquiry focused,” said Steve Moore, executive director of Murdock Trust. “We are honored to be involved with such a vital program at the University of Montana.”

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

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

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About Partners in Science program: The Partners in Science Program was founded by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement in 1988. The Murdock Trust joined Partners in 1990, and in 1999 became the administrator of the program. The program pairs high school science teachers for two summers with a mentor doing cutting-edge research in an academic lab or a lab associated with another nonprofit institution. Teachers then present the results of their research at an annual conference. For more information on the Partners in Science program or how to apply for grants, go to murdocktrust.org.

About M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust: Murdock Trust, created by the will of the late Melvin J. “Jack” Murdock, provides grants to organizations in five states of the Pacific Northwest – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington – that seek to strengthen the region’s educational and cultural base in creative and sustainable ways. Since its inception in 1975, the trust has awarded nearly 6,700 grants totaling nearly $988 million. For more information, find the Murdock Trust on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and on our website.

Contact: Elizabeth Willy, director of communications, UM Foundation, 406-243-5320, elizabeth.willy@supportum.org.

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UM Information Systems Wins International Outstanding Student Chapter Award

June 04, 2019

MISSOULA – The University of Montana student chapter of the Association for Information Systems earned an Outstanding Student Chapter Award at the 2019 AIS Student Chapter Leadership Conference.

AIS lauded UM for its productive year recruiting student members and providing professional development opportunities, including events to meet and network with representatives from



national firms.

Each year, the Outstanding Student Chapter Award recognizes chapters worldwide that champion the AIS areas of emphasis: professional development, membership, careers in information systems, community service, fundraising and communications.

AIS student chapters submit annual reports to assess the health of their chapter, which provide information for yearly progress.

“The annual reports for the AIS student chapters provide a great opportunity for AIS and the chapters themselves to analyze their yearly growth,” said Rhonda Syler, vice president of student chapters. “The chapters are given a chance to put all their success into words and be proud of what they have accomplished. Each year we honor very talented students who have dedicated countless hours to AIS.”

The AIS Chapter at UM was incredibly active during the 2017-18 school year in increasing membership and professional development within the chapter, which included visits from two companies during spring semester. They also hosted a multitude of guest speakers from national firms. Additionally, the chapter hosted resume and Microsoft Excel workshops. Over 250 students attended the UM AIS Chapter meeting where they created personalized business cards and had professional headshots taken.

The Association for Information Systems, founded in 1994, is a professional organization that serves as the premier global organization for academics, students and professionals specializing in Information Systems. For more information about AIS or to become a member, visit http://www.aisnet.org.

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