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UM / News / January

# JANUARY

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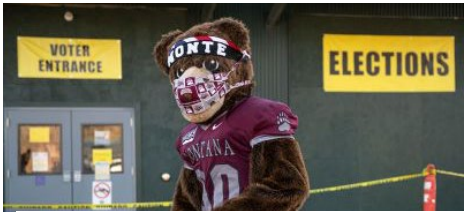
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UM / News / Grizzlies Glide: UM Invites Public to Ice Skate on Oval



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

# GRIZZLIES GLIDE: UM INVITES PUBLIC TO ICE SKATE ON OVAL

28 JANUARY 2021



Missoula youth recently take advantage of open skating on the UM Oval. The public is invited to skate on the Oval and a detailed calendar of open skate times and ice rink rules is online at <http://www.umt.edu/uc/ice-rink/>.

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana invites the public to a rare opportunity to ice skate on the Oval – a beloved winter tradition at the University that has returned for student enjoyment and recreation during the pandemic.

Each day, the ice rink will open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with allotted times for student-only reservations and open skate times for the public. A detailed calendar of open skate times and ice rink rules is online at <http://www.umt.edu/uc/ice-rink/>.

The public is invited to skate when the calendar notes “Open Skate.” Reservations for ice skating are not required, it is a first-come, first-served basis. No more than 25 skaters are allowed on the rink at time.

Masks are required at all times on the ice rink and there is a self-check in form at the gate. Skaters must check-in before skating, as required by the Missoula City-County Health Department for COVID-10 mitigation, contact tracing and monitoring.

Skaters can use the QR code located outside of the rink, or, they can visit [www.umt.edu/ice-rink](http://www.umt.edu/ice-rink) to digitally accept rules and risks for skating. The rink will remain as long as cold temperatures permit, and the rink may close intermittently due to unseasonably warm temperatures.

“We’re so pleased to share this unique and special experience with our greater Missoula community,” said Adrienne Smith, University Center director, who is overseeing the ice rink. “With the understanding that everyone honors safety protocols and respects each other, ice skating on the Oval will offer lasting, positive memories for a new generation – and in a very difficult year.”

The ice rink is a community, self-monitored rink. The University recommends helmets for safety, physical distancing when possible, being respectful of patrons and skating safely.

The ice rink is part of a suite of “[Winter Wonderland](#)” events for students that safely fosters connection and engagement for the spring semester. Off-campus group reservations will be allowed beginning the week of Monday, Feb. 8.

For questions about ice skating, email [adrienne.smith@umontana.edu](mailto:adrienne.smith@umontana.edu) or call 406-243-6029.

###

**Contact:** Adrienne Smith, University Center director, 406-243-6029,  
[Adrienne.smith@umontana.edu](mailto:Adrienne.smith@umontana.edu).

**Related stories:**  
[UM Welcomes Returning Students With ‘Winter Wonderland’ Activities](#)

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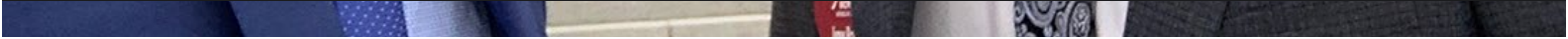
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UM / News / UM Journalism Students Cover Legislature for Montana Media





UM journalism students Austin Amestoy (left) and James Bradley are covering the 67th Montana Legislature for news organizations around the state.

**MISSOULA** – Two University of Montana School of Journalism students are providing coverage of the 67th Montana Legislature to scores of news organizations across the state as part of the UM Legislative News Service.

The service, which distributes the student-produced coverage to more than 200 editors, publishers, producers, directors and reporters, has provided coverage to Montana news organizations since 1993.

UM School of Journalism Director Denise Dowling calls the project “an incredible service to the people of Montana and an incomparable learning experience for our young reporters.”

James Bradley and Austin Amestoy are the reporters covering this session, with direction and editing from UM Adjunct Professor Courtney Lowery Cowgill.

Bradley, the news service’s audio reporter, is a senior and has been interested in politics since he was a kid growing up in rural Colorado. Outside of journalism, he is involved in the UM's Esports program as a broadcaster, analyst and athlete.

Amestoy is a third-year student and the print reporter for the UM Legislative News Service. Amestoy was born in **Billings** and raised in **Laurel**, where he graduated as a proud Locomotive in 2018. Recently, he wrote as an arts and culture reporter for UM’s independent student newspaper, the Montana Kaimin, and enjoys working as a production assistant at KTVQ News in Billings.

“These students witness the inner workings of our lawmaking process and rely heavily on the seasoned journalists they work alongside at the Capitol to make sense of it all,” Dowling said. “We could not make this happen without the dedication and expertise of the School of Journalism faculty and the financial support of our sponsors.”

The school’s partners in the program include the Greater Montana Foundation, the Montana Broadcasters Association and Montana Newspaper Association.

“The UM Legislative News Service provides bread and butter coverage of the state Legislature for virtually every community newspaper in Montana,” said Matt Gibson, the executive director of the Montana Newspaper Association. “The reporters do solid work that connects folks from Eureka to Ekalaka to their representatives in Helena.”

Dewey Bruce, the president and CEO of the Montana Broadcasters Association, said the UM service plays an important role in getting news from the Capitol to communities across the state.

“We support the Legislative News Service because it provides our members daily reports on what’s going on at the Montana Legislature who don’t have the ability to have a reporter in Helena,” Bruce said.

Ron Davis, chair of the Greater Montana Foundation, echoed Bruce and Gibson’s comments and said the foundation is proud of the long relationship with the Legislative News Service.

“The founder of the Greater Montana Foundation, Edward B. Craney, had one main desire for the foundation: to provide high-quality professional broadcast news and information to the people of our vast and sparsely populated state,” Davis said. “The Legislative News Service, since its inception, has created a standard of excellence that has fulfilled Mr. Craney's desire while providing the people of Montana a valuable service.”

The service files new daily audio and web reports every weekday between 4 and 5 p.m., and it files weekly print and web features and roundups by Sunday of each week.

An [archive of the reports](https://wakelet.com/@umlegnews), including daily audio reports and weekly print and web coverage, as well as photos, is available online. The students’ published work is curated here:

<https://wakelet.com/@umlegnews>.

News organizations that are also MBA and MNA members and wish to receive the reports can [sign up for the email list](#).

###

**Contact:** Courtney Lowery Cowgill, director of media and engagement, adjunct professor and editor of the UM Legislative News Service, 406-214-0164, [courtney.cowgill@umontana.edu](mailto:courtney.cowgill@umontana.edu).

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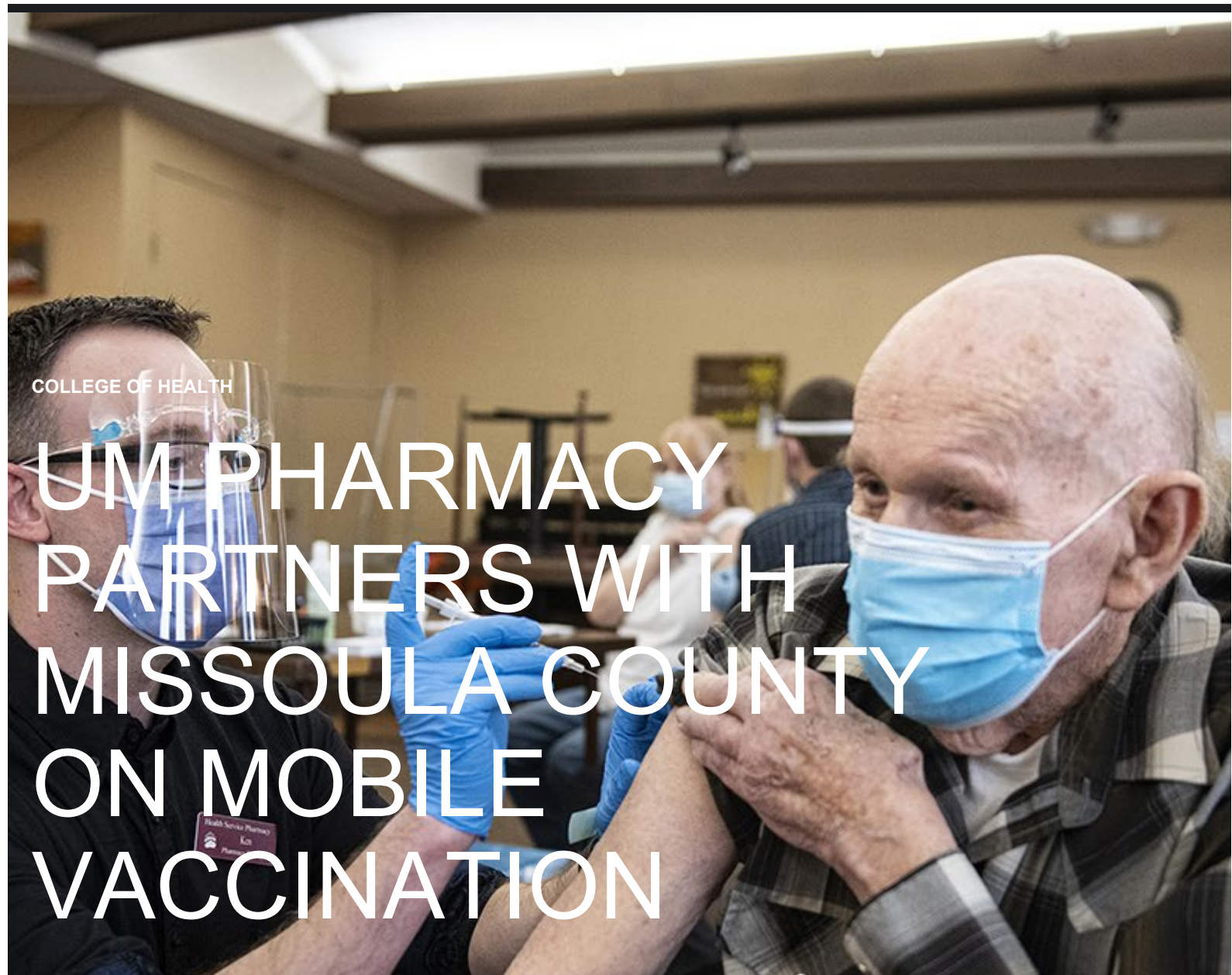
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UM / News / UM Pharmacy Partners With Missoula County on Mobile Vaccination Events



# EVENTS

27 JANUARY 2021

Curry Health Center Pharmacy Manager Kenneth Chatriand, left, gives Missoula Manor resident and University of Montana alumnus Jack Dunbar his first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at Missoula Manor on Jan. 26. Dunbar graduated from UM in 1956.

**MISSOULA —** The University of Montana’s Health Services Pharmacy, operated by the University’s **Skaggs School of Pharmacy**, will administer more than 450 COVID-19 vaccines to residents in local assisted and senior living facilities this week.

The school’s partnership with the Missoula City-County Health Department will allow for the completion of the Phase 1A COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

“We’re excited to help deliver COVID-19 vaccines to those who are among the most vulnerable for serious complications from coronavirus,” said Kenneth Chatriand, manager of the UM Pharmacy and coordinator of community advanced student pharmacy practice. “This is a tremendous undertaking – delivering vaccines to tens of thousands in Missoula County over the coming months – and we’re all working together.”

Missoula County’s Office of Emergency Management COVID-19 Vaccine Coordination team is working closely with UM and the other agencies with vaccine – including MCCHD, local pharmacies and hospitals – to coordinate scheduling vaccination events and ensure the phased delivery proceeds as efficiently as possible.

Compared to influenza, administering COVID-19 vaccines requires significantly more logistical coordination, noted Chatriand.

“There are more moving parts, from ensuring the vaccine events themselves have COVID-19 mitigations (spacing, masks, etc.), to identifying individuals in each phase and scheduling not one, but two shots 3 or 4 weeks apart.”

During the vaccine events, Missoula City Fire Department provides paramedics, EMTs and

other support as needed.

UM has received vaccines manufactured by both Moderna and Pfizer, and has the required facilities for safe storage. Last month, the UM was approved as a vaccine holding and distribution center.

###

**Contact:** Kenneth Chatriand, pharmacist pharmacy manager, 406-243-5171, [kenneth.chatriand@umontana.edu](mailto:kenneth.chatriand@umontana.edu) ; Dave Kuntz, UM director of strategic communications, 406-243-5659, [dave.kuntz@umontana.edu](mailto:dave.kuntz@umontana.edu).

### Related stories:

[UM Begins Phase 1A of Vaccine Rollout](#)

[UM Named COVID-19 Vaccine Provider, Distributer](#)

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UM / News / New Certificate Captures Living History

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

# NEW CERTIFICATE CAPTURES LIVING HISTORY

26 JANUARY 2021

UM students tour the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. UM students now have the option to complete a 12-credit certificate in public history, the only one of its kind in Montana, to complement another major and prepare for a 21st century workforce.

**MISSOULA** – In the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak last summer, a band of undergraduates, alumni and doctoral students from the Department of History at the University of Montana gathered 20 oral testimonies from people, businesses and organizations that had been affected by the pandemic.

This work was part of an initiative to give students access to more hands-on, community-driven research as part of a new Certificate in Public History program, just approved by the Montana University System Board of Regents.

The certificate, the only one offered in the state, provides students with quality instruction, real-life experience and professional contacts, preparing them for a dynamic career in the 21st-century workforce, said Regents Professor of History Anya Jabour, director of UM's Public History Program.

"This certificate program reflects our students' interests and current trends in the historical profession," Jabour said. "We are excited to offer our students specialized courses and hands-on training in public history and to provide them with credentials that will increase their employment opportunities."

Already students in the Public History Program have used their service-learning internships to design historical walking tours for the Unseen Missoula partnership, curate artifacts at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula and create "living history" programs at Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. They've also created an interactive exhibit on the history of women and environmental activism in Missoula.

This spring, history major Clara McRae will participate in the Map Missoula community archive project, interning with the Missoula County Clerk & Treasurer's Office. She said the internship will help her shape a community's understanding of the world.

"One of the reasons I chose to study history is because I believe that making historical information more accessible to the general public can improve civic life by strengthening our understanding of existing structures and institutions," she said. "By helping improve a tool that will provide clear and unbiased historical information to the Missoula and Montana community, I hope to be able to strengthen public knowledge of local history."

Making the past relevant and accessible to the wider public is a goal for the 12-credit public history program.

“I think the public history certificate is extremely important, especially among social movements like Black Lives Matter, which raise public discussions of historical memory,” history major Maddie Hagan said. “Public history is a vital part of the history program at UM and continues to challenge students to engage critically with how history can impact and reflect their communities.”

As well as the [UM Covid-19 Oral History Project](#), history students, alumni and faculty also have contributed to [“Documenting COVID-19 in Missoula County: A Community Archive Project.”](#)

The work is ongoing. This spring, in [Making History Public](#), taught by Professor Claire Arcenas, UM undergraduates will partner with lifelong learning students in Professor Jody Pavilack’s MOLLI Oral History course to complete a new phase of the UM Covid-19 Oral History Project.

The collaboration between UM undergraduates and MOLLI students will result in a series called “Cross-Generational Conversations in the Age of Covid-19.”

“The oral histories that result from these intergenerational conversations between UM undergraduates and MOLLI students will provide a unique, historically valuable perspective on the pandemic,” Arcenas said. “The collection of interviews that emerge as a result of Professor Pavilack’s and my students’ work will be a tremendous resource for our community today and for generations to come, who will look back on 2020-21 with curiosity and wonder.”

Other courses that count toward the certificate include [Intoxication Nation: Alcohol in American History](#), [Digital Worlds of Early America](#), [Women in America](#) and [Latin America: Human Rights & Memory](#).

The establishment of the Certificate of Public History reflects the history department’s longstanding commitment to [#MakingHistoryPublic](#) and is part of the creation of the [H. Duane Hampton Public History Program](#), generously supported by UM alumni.

Since 2007, the Department of History has sponsored an annual lecture series in honor of Professor Emeritus Hampton, bringing a series of national experts on western, environmental and public history to campus. With the help of three UM history alums – Alan Newell, Carla Homstad and Daniel Gallacher – the department has pledged to grow the endowed Hampton

Fund, which currently stands at roughly \$150,000, to \$500,000. Collectively, the generous donors have pledged to match dollar for dollar the first \$65,000 raised in this current effort.

“We know that many UM graduates, such as the three of us, have spent their careers working inside and outside academia employing various skills embodied in the field of public history,” the donors said. “That field, now more than 40 years old, continues to offer history graduates rewarding and productive employment in both public and private sectors.”

Contributions to the Hampton Fund will increase the history department’s ability to offer paid internships to students engaged in public history programs in the surrounding community. Learn more at the “[Supporting UM History](#)” page or contact [Professor Kyle G. Volk](#), chair of the Department of History.

To learn more about the new Public History Certificate visit the [UM Department of History site](#).

###

**Contact:** Anya Jabour, director UM Public History Program, Regents Professor of History, [anya.jabour@mso.umt.edu](mailto:anya.jabour@mso.umt.edu).

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New UM Registrar Maria Mangold has made student success the goal throughout her career at the University.

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana’s new registrar readily admits the work of her office often goes unnoticed against the backdrop of busy campus life. But as the keepers of all campus academic records, Maria Mangold and her staff know they are an important thread woven throughout each student’s academic story – from orientation, to graduation and beyond.

And for Mangold, who was promoted to registrar in December, the connection to students is one of the most satisfying aspects of every job she’s had at UM.

“Our work is sprinkled throughout with student contact,” she said of the Registrar’s Office. “I accepted this job because I never want to be out of touch with the student experience.”

Mangold’s commitment to students began early in her career when she worked in various advising and student support positions at Roosevelt University, Loyola University, DePaul University and the University of Chicago.

Soon after starting as an academic adviser in UM’s College of Humanities and Sciences in 2010, Mangold quickly immersed herself in campus and would eventually go on to serve on the University’s Staff Senate, including Staff Senate chair, and on the inaugural Women’s Leadership Initiative cohort.

“I’ve always felt I needed to connect with opportunities, and I wanted to help students do the same,” Mangold said. “I wanted a deeper engagement with the University for me and for my students.”

Before being named interim registrar in July 2020, Mangold served almost three years as registrar and director of student services in UM’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law.

“I found law students so passionate about their studies, and they make huge sacrifices to get their degree,” Mangold said. “I really enjoyed helping them make the path easier.”

Alex Dreussi, a second-year law student, called Mangold his “one-stop shop” for information and help during Dreussi’s first year in law school, adding that Mangold was also a source of encouragement and kindness.

“Maria was able to help me with enrolling in a dual degree program, registering for classes,

finding offices in the grander UM campus and helping with any issues I encountered,” Dreussi said.

Ali Bronsdon, a third-year law student, said that Mangold sees students beyond their academic studies and approaches individuals as a whole person.

“When I had questions about my schedule, exams or grades, Maria was happy to help,” Bronsdon said. “But what I am most grateful for is Maria's willingness to work with me to get through a semester when life outside of law school became especially difficult. It was a huge relief to know that no matter what was going on, I could knock on Maria's door and she would have my back.”

Mangold said UM’s whole-person approach came to the fore for her personally in the COVID-19 epidemic, when she was transitioning to the Registrar’s Office while still doing her work at the law school and raising three children of her own.

“The family-friendly atmosphere here has been a huge help for parents,” Mangold said, adding that her children love coming to campus and have always felt welcome.

Mangold encourages everyone at UM to take advantage of UM’s Office of Organizational Learning and Development department to enhance their skills and professional abilities.

“We are getting better and better at providing pathways for staff to grow as individuals and members of the UM community,” Mangold said. “That, in turn, helps to break down silos between us.”

In the coming months, Mangold said she and her staff will look to implement technology upgrades to the Registrar’s Office and deal with the ongoing issues posed by COVID-19.

“COVID has been a challenge, and we’ve really seen here at UM how you can step up to the challenge and learn from both your successes and your challenges,” she said.

Mangold’s leadership during the pandemic was a key factor in her selection as registrar said Reed Humphrey, acting provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. He said these skills will do much to enhance the registrar’s role on campus.

“Her experience in a variety of student-centered roles, coupled with her leadership skills and vision of the Registrar’s Office as the nucleus of academic operations within the University, will ensure her success,” Humphrey said.

Mangold sees a bright future for UM.

“We see strength here in our ability to reinvent ourselves,” she said. “People want to be here, and if you seize the opportunities, UM is a place where your passions can take flight.”

###

**Contact:** Maria Mangold, University of Montana registrar, 406-243-2412, maria.mangold@umontana.edu; Reed Humphrey, University of Montana acting provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, 406-243-4689, reed.humphrey@umontana.edu.

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UM / News / New UM Undergraduate Degree in Public Health Meets the Moment

COLLEGE OF HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

# NEW UM UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH MEETS THE MOMENT

20 JANUARY 2021



TraJon Cotton, a senior in UM's new bachelor's in public health degree program and first-generation college student, balances coursework with athletics and an internship. He said he wants to use his college experience and public health education to be a good role model.

**MISSOULA** – When TraJon Cotton visited his home in Sacramento during his break in studies at the University of Montana, he noticed his mother would go to the gym but then cook and eat dinner too late at night – backfiring on her goal of losing weight. Using what he had learned in UM's public health courses, he suggested she meal prep and eat earlier instead of sleeping on a full stomach and impeding weight-loss.

“The public health field teaches you so much in everyday life – how to eat, how many hours to sleep – and just instills it into your brain,” said Cotton, now a senior in UM's bachelor's degree in public health. “It gives you so much knowledge about things you don't even know are wrong.”

And as a first-generation college student, Cotton likes bringing everything he learns back to family members like his mom, to inspire even the smallest changes.

UM recently **launched its Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree** – the only undergraduate degree of its kind in Montana. From teaching students how to make simple health adjustments in their lives, to preparing them for today's major health challenges, the program aims to train the next generation in the science and art of health promotion – at a time when it has never been more essential.

Annie Sondag, professor in the School of Public and Community Health Sciences, housed in UM's College of Health, said the new degree reflects a shift in American medicine and patient care.

“Health care in America is in the midst of a paradigm shift from a system focused almost entirely on treatment to a system focused on both prevention and treatment,” Sondag said. “Governmental organizations, hospitals, primary care centers, insurance companies, nonprofits, university wellness centers and corporate employers increasingly recognize the value of prevention.”



According to the **Bureau of Labor Statistics**, jobs for health educators and community health workers focused on teaching healthy behaviors and accessing health services are projected to grow 13 % from 2019 to 2029.

Accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health, UM's versatile **public health degree program** focuses on five core areas: biostatistics, epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences, health services administration and environmental health sciences.

"This degree meets the needs of students interested in developing the necessary skill set and knowledge base to respond effectively to public health challenges in rural and urban settings with agility, professionalism and innovation," Sondag said.

Students in the program also learn about current health challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects on certain populations. Cotton said the pandemic has put people from racial and ethnic minority groups – which includes people of color – at high-risk for contracting and dying from COVID-19.

"The social determinants of health have historically prevented minorities and low-income populations from having fair opportunities for economic, physical and emotional health," he said. "It is good that those in public health are aware of these discrepancies because they are going to have a better understanding dealing with the less-fortunate populations."

A transfer student from Oregon State University, Cotton joined the Griz football team after arriving at UM last January. As a cornerback, he fits in 6 a.m. workouts, classes that are mostly still in-person, homework and now an internship. He credits Sondag, his mentor, for helping him balance his schedule and pursue his academic goals, which include completing a master's degree at UM in public health.

Cotton's internship with the Missoula YMCA this semester allows him to connect with kids up through the sixth grade, who participate in free after-school activities. The internship will put to use his knowledge and program-planning skills from Sondag's Theory and Practice of Community Health Education course.

"The public health field is pretty much always interacting with people and building those relationships, so that's kind of what took me to the field," Cotton said.

Sondag said volunteer opportunities for public health undergraduates are abundant, as well as

service learning experiences (required for coursework) and practicums and internships locally or abroad.

“Public health jobs offer competitive salaries and provide chances to improve lives and help communities overcome obstacles,” Sondag said. “Some public health professionals embrace opportunities to travel and aid communities abroad, while others choose to stay closer to home, working alongside local governments and community-based organizations to extend lifespans and improve the quality of life for residents.”

Brooklynn Bohannon, a sophomore in the UM public health program, also has brought her public health expertise to the community. With her classmates in Sondag’s Community Health course, she helped develop activities for students in the Flagship after-school program at C.S. Porter Middle School.

“We created a program that was designed to get kids to be active, find community and learn productive ways to deal with stress during this ongoing pandemic,” Bohannon said.

She said her passion lies in understanding other cultures and extending her knowledge broadly to help populations that lack supplies, education or governmental support. She recently decided to pair an elementary education major with her public health coursework to help her meet her goal of becoming an international teacher and health care worker with the Peace Corps or Teachers Without Borders.

“I hope that considering this past year, I will be able to gain more exposure to education and health care systems,” Bohannon said. “We have seen how millions of people’s well-being has been sacrificed due to COVID and disparities across the U.S. I hope that my small part in all this can change the life of even just one person.”

For more information on UM’s undergraduate public health degree, or other College of Health programs, visit <https://health.umt.edu/>.

###

**Contact:** Annie Sondag, professor, UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences, 406-243-5215, [annie.sondag@mso.umt.edu](mailto:annie.sondag@mso.umt.edu).

By Courtney Brockman, UM News Service

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UM / News / Fauci to Headline Mansfield Lecture, Pandemic Dialogues

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



# FAUCI TO HEADLINE MANSFIELD LECTURE, PANDEMIC DIALOGUES

19 JANUARY 2021



Dr. Anthony Fauci will headline UM's Mansfield Lecture on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana’s 2021 Mansfield Lecture will present the country’s leading infectious disease specialist, Dr. Anthony Fauci, in a Zoom conversation at noon Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Free and open to the public, the discussion is an opportunity for Montanans to hear directly from Fauci on developments in the COVID-19 pandemic. [Register for the event online](#).

“We are honored that Dr. Fauci accepted our invitation based on our relationship with and advocacy by Rocky Mountain Laboratories, as well as UM expertise in public health,” said Deena Mansour, the Mansfield Center executive director. “The Mansfield Center is also known for providing community discussions in a nonpartisan, fact-based environment as part of our mission to support ethics in public affairs.”

The Mansfield Center also will host a lineup of three “Pandemic Dialogues” during the lead-up to the Fauci event. These discussions are part of a free public series designed to bring Montanans together to discuss critical issues in international engagement and ethics in public affairs. Advance registration is required at [www.umt.edu/mansfield](http://www.umt.edu/mansfield). The dialogues are:

- **“Serving Montana: UM’s Public Health COVID-19 Response”** at noon Wednesday, Jan. 27. Students and faculty of UM’s School of Public and Community Health Sciences will discuss their efforts to protect and inform Montana communities.
- **“Disproportionate Impacts on Native American Communities”** at noon Wednesday, Feb. 3. Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Chairwoman Shelly Fyant and Fort Peck Tribes Councilwoman Kaci Wallette will address how Native communities continue to experience devastating COVID-19 fatality rates despite vigilant efforts to protect their communities from the coronavirus. Native Americans comprise 6.7% of Montana's population but 30% of COVID-19 deaths. This panel will explore the role systemic inequalities play in these outcomes and highlight the courageous leadership of Native leaders on the front lines. It will be moderated by Cora Neumann, founder of We Are Montana.

- **“Rights and Responsibilities in a Time of COVID”** at noon Wednesday, Feb. 10. Tom Snyder, owner of Five on Black; Jim Nelson, former Montana Supreme Court justice; Anna Conley, senior civil deputy with the Missoula County Attorney’s Office; and Montana House of Representatives Majority Leader Sue Vinton will discuss issues of freedom and the economic and social impacts that result from the actions of private and public citizens in a public health emergency. The event is co-sponsored by the UM Justice, Policy and Public Service Community of Excellence.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center fosters globally minded leaders of integrity. It sponsors these events within its program for ethical public policy and leadership. The Mansfield Lecture was founded in 1968 in honor of Mike Mansfield’s critical status as a great public figure. Speakers have included Milton Friedman, Daniel Ellsberg and Barbara Tuchman.

###

**Contact:** Deena Mansour, executive director, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-274-0992, [deena.mansour@umontana.edu](mailto:deena.mansour@umontana.edu).

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UM / News / UM Listed Among Top Military-Friendly Online Universities



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

# UM LISTED AMONG TOP MILITARY- FRIENDLY ONLINE UNIVERSITIES

13 JANUARY 2021





**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana has been named among the top military- friendly online universities in the country by a national online ranking organization.

UM ranked No. 18 among 100 universities included in the **2020 Best Military-Friendly Online Colleges**. Other top 20 universities in the ranking included Syracuse, Auburn and University of Arizona. About 450 veterans were enrolled at UM for the fall 2020 semester.

“There is a proud tradition of serving vets at UM,” said Daryl Lee, program coordinator of the UM Vets Office. “Recognition like this is not only deeply appreciated but indicative of the hard work we’ve put into making UM a place where vets can feel welcome and supported in their studies.”

To determine the rankings, OnlineU used an internal scoring system based on data from the federal government’s GI Bill Comparison Tool. This included the number of GI Bill students currently enrolled at each university, participation in the Yellow Ribbon program, which supports out-of-state vets with tuition, and involvement in other government programs designed specifically for military students.

UM’s Vets office assists military-affiliated students in utilizing their educational benefits to their advantage and connects them to wellness and academic support resources, along with veteran student organizations. The University’s transfer policy awards academic credits for prior military training and education. Additionally, tuition assistance is accepted for enrolled active-duty military students.

UM President Seth Bodnar said the University is committed to the continued growth of the Vets program and services offered to veteran students. As a former Green Beret, Bodnar knows how important it is to support veterans in their academic studies.

“The programs we offer at UM are a bridge for vets transitioning not only into their professional careers but also to the next stages of their lives,” Bodnar says. “We certainly owe them our fullest support for all they have given to our country.”

UM's online program continues to grow and now offers a **large variety of undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs and courses that are fully online**. When registering, students often have the option to select modality for many of the courses including an asynchronous study program that provides freedom and flexibility when engaging with course materials, reviewing pre-recorded lectures and submitting coursework and assignments.

"The University is also developing an AA/AS degree in collaboration with the **Defense Critical Language and Culture Program (DCLCP)**, which is will be open to all students, especially students using Active Tuition Assistance, when released later in 2021.

For veterans interesting in pursuing their education at UM, visit the UM Vets Office at <https://www.umt.edu/veterans/> or call 406-243-2744.

###

**Contact:** Breanna Niekamp, marketing coordinator, UMLonline, 406-243-2502, [breanna.niekamp@umontana.edu](mailto:breanna.niekamp@umontana.edu); Daryl Lee, Vets Office program coordinator, Missoula College Student Affairs, 406-243-7844, [daryl.lee@umontana.edu](mailto:daryl.lee@umontana.edu).

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

# NEW BUSINESS CENTER BUOYS FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

12 JANUARY 2021



The new MonTEC Women's Business Center housed in Missoula will buoy female entrepreneurs by leveraging University of Montana resources such as the Pursue Your Passions program, led by Morgan Slemberger (center).

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana and the Montana Technology Enterprise Center (MonTEC) have secured a grant to create one of 20 new centers in the nation dedicated to women in business.

The MonTEC Women's Business Center, funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, will be housed in Missoula but serve the entire state, with employees in **Missoula, Great Falls** and **Fort Belknap**. It is the second WBC in Montana.

"I have been saying out loud for three years that I would like a WBC in Missoula," said Morgan Slemberger, the UM director of women's entrepreneurship and leadership who spearheaded the grant application. "A colleague alerted me to this rare SBA opportunity with a little more than eight days' notice. I talked with a lot of people in a short time, and because stakeholders in our state believe in women, we got the grant. It was a stretch, but we made it happen."

Statewide support for the new WBC poured in, with pledges of in-kind and monetary support from the cities of Shelby, Choteau, Bozeman, Great Falls, numerous small businesses, banks, Missoula Mayor John Engen, U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, the State House of Representatives and more.

"Diversity, equity and inclusion are essential Missoula values," Engen said. "To get the rare opportunity for Missoula to headquarter a statewide, SBA Women's Business Center is a privilege, but it also is a way for the city of Missoula to actually live its values. I cannot wait to hear about the different, women-owned businesses that this new center will support."

Women entrepreneurs have long faced challenges launching and maintaining successful businesses – challenges made even greater in large, culturally diverse and technologically sparse states like Montana. Many Montanans' incomes fall below the nationwide average, further making it difficult to access business resources.

In spite of these challenges, women-owned businesses in Montana are on the rise, and according to **American Express' 2019 report**, Montana is No. 10 in the country for women's ability to create jobs. (See page 14).



Montana's current WBC is housed at Prospera in Bozeman, and the new decentralized WBC will focus on serving even more women across the state – urban, rural and people of color. Coordinated through the center director in Missoula, MonTEC's WBC will host business counseling, programs and training for women entrepreneurs and business owners in all locations.

MonTEC's WBC will leverage UM's commitment to economic development through its existing women's entrepreneurship and leadership program, Pursue Your Passions, in amplifying support for current and aspiring women business owners.

At UM, a suite of additional programs such as the Blackstone LaunchPad, Accelerate Montana's Rural Innovation Initiative, the Small Business Development Center, Montana World Trade Center and Missoula Procurement Technical Assistance Center all help support entrepreneurs and business.

Already UM's Accelerate Montana program has been successful in aiding women entrepreneurs during the pandemic with an **award of \$300,000 in CARES Act Recovery Grant funding**.

Through supporting diverse women entrepreneurs, MonTEC's WBC hopes to create financial independence for Montana women and sustain and grow the state's economy.

"When we invest in resources like the WBC, we see meaningful impacts like new business innovations, more jobs and a better quality of life," said Jason Nitschke, Great Falls Development Authority vice president and Small Business Development Center regional director. "I couldn't be more proud of this collaboration."

Tonya Plummer, executive director of the Montana Native Growth Fund (also known as Island Mountain CDFI) in Fort Belknap, said support for organizations like the WBC is especially important for Native woman business owners. Although 69% of Native women entrepreneurs were raised in families where parents or other family members owned a business, 63% had no formal business training.

"Native women are natural entrepreneurs – resourceful, resilient, creative and deeply connected to our communities," Plummer said. "The ability to offer a WBC Native woman business adviser meets this need. The growth of successful, thriving Native women in business promises exponentially positive impact on future tribal generations."



Slemberger, who will supervise the WBC director, thanks all the partners who supported the new center.

“In Montana, our people may be few, but our vibrant communities are plentiful,” Slemberger said. “MonTEC’s WBC proposes to be different from those that have preceded it: divergent in location, but convergent in a collaborative, needs-based approach to drive meaningful outcomes for each diverse community member it will serve.”

For more information on the MonTEC WBC, visit [umt.edu/passion](https://umt.edu/passion).

###

**Contact:** Morgan Slemberger, UM Accelerate Montana director of women’s entrepreneurship and leadership, 971-219-4101, [morgan.slemberger@mso.umt.edu](mailto:morgan.slemberger@mso.umt.edu).

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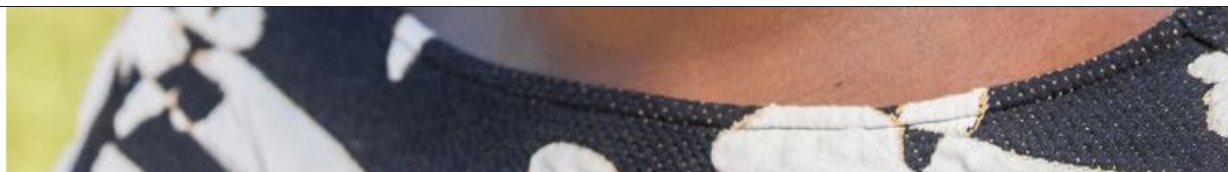
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Dr. Crystal Sanders will present the University of Montana's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day lecture on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 4 p.m. The lecture is free and open to the public and registration is required.

**MISSOULA** – Dr. Crystal Sanders, a pre-eminent national scholar from Penn State and associate professor of history and African-American studies, will present the University of Montana's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day lecture.

Sanders will virtually deliver "Back Then They Didn't Want Me: A Look at Maligned, Misused and Misremembered African American Activists" at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14.

The lecture is free and open to the public and is hosted by the President's and Provost's offices and the UM Black Student Union. Participants must register at <http://bit.ly/MLKlecture>.

A historian of the United States with research expertise in African American history, southern history and the history of Black education, Sanders' scholarship explores African Americans' everyday acts of resistance and resiliency throughout the 20th century to secure the rights and privileges of American citizenship. She holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University and master's and doctorate degrees from Northwestern University.

Ahead of her lecture, Sanders answered a series of questions by email from the UM News Service about the significance of King's legacy in 2020, renewed calls for social and racial justice and how studying the humanities help us understand the world.

**UM News: You're visiting UM as the guest lecturer for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and presenting a lecture about misremembered African American activists, including how King faced resistance as a controversial figure of his time. What's at fault when we misremember or curate an inaccurate vision of historical figures like Dr. King?**

**Sanders:** When we misremember or curate an inaccurate vision of historical figures like MLK, we diminish the opposition they faced, which in turn reduces the significance of all they achieved.

**UM News: Your scholarship explores some of the everyday acts of resistance and**

**resiliency by African Americans throughout the 20th century. The political activism 2020 brought forth was the first time many students experienced or participated in civil disobedience on a national stage. How did the brave acts of resistance during the Jim Crow era influence the calls for justice we see today?**

**Sanders:** There are certainly important similarities between acts of resistance against white supremacy during the Jim Crow era and present-day calls for justice. In both instances, young people were at the forefront of the protests and engaged in grassroots organizing that was not hierarchical. Additionally, in both instances, Black activists received crucial support from non-Black allies.

**UM News:** You're a Fellow at the National Humanities Center, the nation's independent resource devoted to advancing humanistic study and reflection. We see many of the nation's great challenges tied directly to the cornerstone ideals of living a just life, and a new generation motivated to study the humanities across law, public policy, social work, history and many others. How does studying the humanities contribute to our greater public consciousness?

**Sanders:** The humanities help us to understand the world. Humanistic study gives us the tools to engage critically and logically with complex social, economic and political issues confronting society. These skills are useful in every aspect of life.

**UM News:** This year also saw the passing of the civils rights activist legend Rep. John Lewis, who left a national legacy as a nonviolent student organizer after a life dedicated to civil rights activism. How might the legacy of Lewis and King, in addition to the many brave voices elevated in 2020, bring to light the work that remains?

**Sanders:** In 1963, MLK said that America had defaulted on its promissory note to Black citizens. The country had defaulted on its promises of freedom, justice and opportunity for African Americans. Two years later, Alabama state troopers beat John Lewis to a bloody pulp. His only crime had been asserting that African Americans had a constitutional right to participate in the electoral process. Here we are in 2021 with states rushing to enact voter ID laws and other barriers to the limit Black access to the ballot box. The present-day voter suppression demonstrates that the work is not finished. America's promissory note is still in default. I can think of no way to honor the legacy of freedom fighters more genuinely than by protecting African American voting rights.

**UM News:** UM has a proud institutional legacy of addressing issues of social justice, with many active students and alumni choosing to work in fields that make the world a better place. UM also is home to the nation's third oldest African American studies department. However, we are a predominately white institution and state. How might we work to become more attuned the African American community and honor the call to advance racial equality?

**Sanders:** A popular expression is “if you build it, they will come.” The University of Montana can amplify its commitment to racial equality by aggressively recruiting and retaining Black faculty, staff and students. Competitive salaries, housing assistance (for faculty, staff and graduate students) and full-ride scholarships for undergraduates can lead to meaningful diversity. Once you increase your nonwhite population, you create meaningful programs to retain that population through mentoring programs, appropriate service and teaching loads and inclusive programs. All of these initiatives will demonstrate that the University's senior leadership understands that diversity fosters excellence.

**UM News:** As we reflect on an inspiring and tumultuous year that ignited a national reckoning for racial and social justice, what might Dr. King say about 2020 – and more importantly, what's next?

**Sanders:** I think Dr. King might say that the United States continues to be morally bankrupt and until the country is ready to acknowledge and address its original sin – racism – it can never actually reach its full potential or live up to its creed. I am not sure of the next step. I am confident that the long freedom struggle that has existed in some form since 1619 will continue as new generations push the U.S. to be and do better.

###

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UM / News / New Business Center Buoy's Female Entrepreneurs



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

# NEW BUSINESS CENTER BUOYS FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

12 JANUARY 2021



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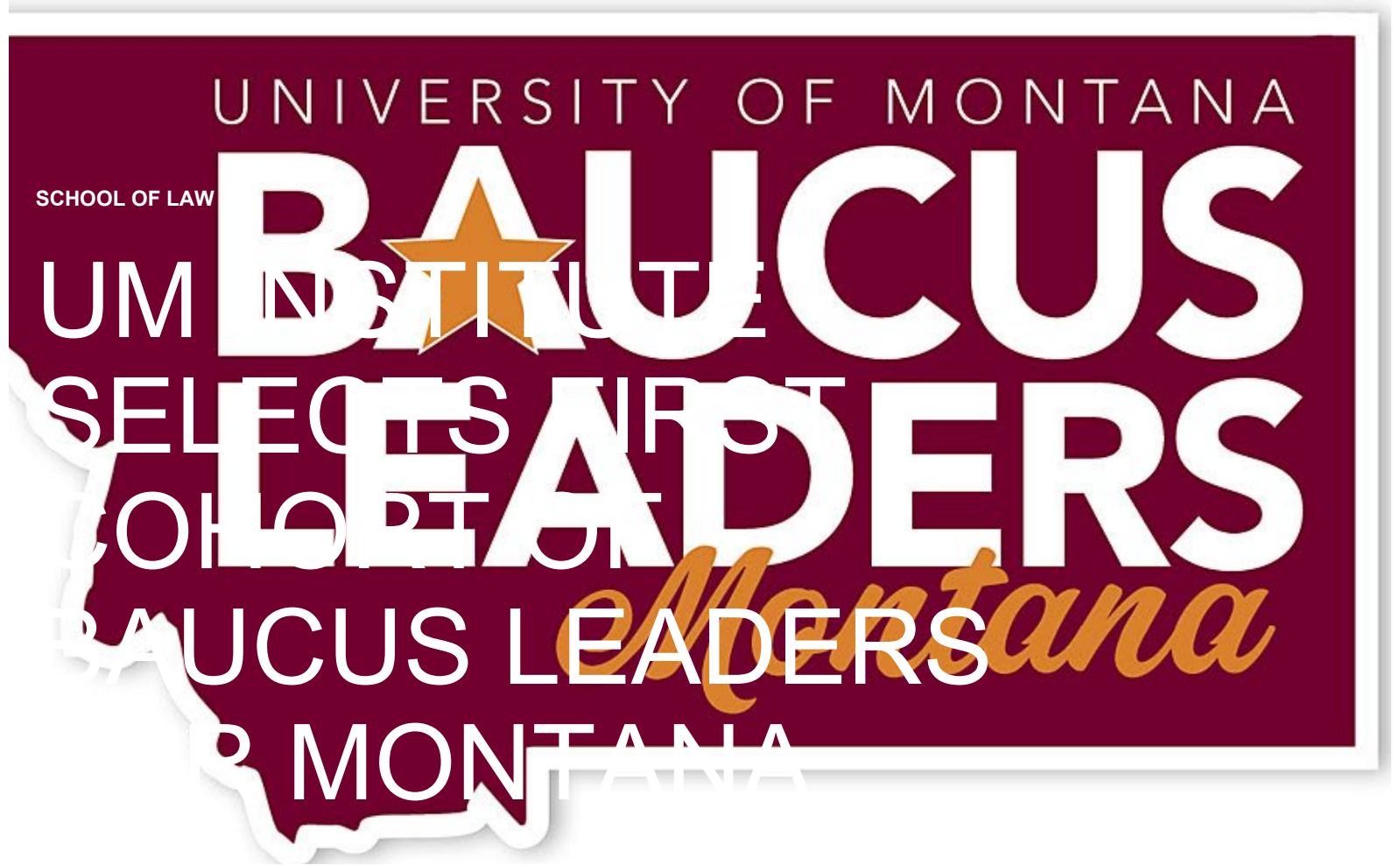
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UM / News / UM Institute Selects First Cohort of Baucus Leaders for Montana



**MISSOULA** – The Max S. Baucus Institute’s Department of Public Administration and Policy at the University of Montana has selected seven students for the inaugural cohort of Baucus Leaders Montana.

Baucus Leaders Montana is modeled on its successful predecessor, Baucus Leaders, which places students in summer internships with congressional offices and committees in Washington, D.C. Students chosen for Baucus Leaders Montana, however, will have the opportunity to make a difference closer to home as they participate in project-based learning with offices throughout the state in the summer of 2021.

The 2021 Baucus Leaders Montana, their placements and their hometowns are:

- Clara Bentler, Montana Department of Justice, from **Billings**
- Ashley Brittner Wells, City of Missoula, from **Missoula**
- Jacqueline Baldwin-LeClair, UM American Indian Governance Institute, from **Morristown, New Jersey**
- Rachael Foe, Missoula County, from **Grand Rapids, Michigan**
- Renee Kelley, Montana Legislative Research and Policy Office, from **Helena**
- Connor Timpone, Montana Nonprofit Association, from **Yosemite, California**
- Cara Grewell, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education, from **Silesia**

These offices have close ties to the Baucus Institute’s Department of Public Administration and Policy, with several Master of Public Administration program alumni partnering to supervise students.

Each Baucus Leader Montana participant will be recognized April 30 during the department’s

annual event celebrating students. Selected students will receive a \$3,000 stipend to defray the costs of housing, travel, course credit or other related expenses.

“We are incredibly fortunate to be part of the Baucus Institute and continue to give back to our state by sending our best and brightest to work on applied summer projects,” said Dr. Sara Rinfret, chair of DPAP. “Our students will work on real solutions for public sector problems, carrying out Ambassador Baucus’ work and our department’s mission.”

The institute recognizes that, much like Baucus’ own life experiences, it is the public service experiences that inspire students to engage in meaningful work to benefit society. The Baucus Institute focuses on inspiring public service by providing training, education and internships to current and future leaders in the public and private sectors, preparing them to address the critical legal and policy challenges facing Montana, the United States and the world.

The Baucus Institute is part of UM’s [Alexander Blewett III School of Law](#). Learn more about the Baucus Institute and Baucus Leaders Montana at <https://www.umt.edu/law/outreach/baucus-institute>.

###

**Contact:** Dr. Sara Rinfret, UM Department of Public Administration and Policy chair, 303-763-0034, [sara.rinfret@umontana.edu](mailto:sara.rinfret@umontana.edu).

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UM students chat beside a propane firepit on the UM campus. The new firepits and Adirondack chairs, in addition to a host of winter activities, are specifically designed to safely foster connection and engagement between students this semester. Students can visit <https://grizhub.umt.edu/> for an up-to-date schedule of offerings.

**MISSOULA** – University of Montana students returning for spring semester will be welcomed by a host of free activities designed to safely foster connection and engagement – two elements the COVID-19 pandemic has nearly erased for students.

Most activities will be held outside with mask requirements and social distancing measures.

What can normally be a bleak month on campus has been transformed into a “Winter wonderland of events,” according organizers with the University Center, Facilities Services and the Office for Student Success – who have worked for months planning safe activities specifically for students to enjoy themselves in community and campus.

“The pandemic has affected every one our lives, including our UM students,” said Sarah Swager, UM vice provost of student success. “We are all longing for community and connection, and we want to be able to safely offer the full University experience to students as much as we can this year.”

Offerings include a once-in-generation opportunity to ice skate on the University’s Oval. The ice rink will remain as long as cold temperatures permit, and students are welcome to skate every day. Ice rink rules, public skate times and the ice rink calendar are posted at <http://www.umt.edu/uc/ice-rink/>.

Students can also Nordic ski on the UM Golf Course, with planned Nordic tours by UM students and equipment available through campus rentals.

Every Tuesday on campus from noon to 1 p.m., snacks and hot chocolate will be available to students on the Oval with live music provided by local musicians. Propane fire pits and

Adirondack chairs also are available for students throughout the day.

For those looking to connect in a warmer space, UM partnered with the Roxy Theatre in downtown Missoula, a walkable distance from the UM campus, to host free movie nights exclusively for students. A remote crafting hour also is planned, with crafting supplies provided.

Swager said students who are engaged with their campus community and develop connections are more likely to stay in school and persist to graduation.

"It's an important time to find smart and safe ways to connect and experience what makes winter at UM and Missoula so unique and special," she said. "As much as we're able, we want to deliver on why our students chose an in-person experience at UM."

Swager's office worked closely with University Center Director Adrienne Smith and the UC's Student Involvement Network to create safe events for students.

"We thought and thought about what welcoming students back in winter would look like this year," Smith said. "We took guidance from the Missoula City-County Health Department and wanted the majority of events to be outside for safety – but also because it's a natural pairing with this beautiful place we live, and we want to share that and promote that to our students."

Smith said this won't be the first time UM students have skated on campus, but she hopes the winter events will spark a lifetime of memories for today's students.

"Our students need each other right now, and so do our faculty and our staff and our greater UM family," she said. "We want everyone to stay safe and healthy but still have an opportunity to connect in-person and remember that a supportive, active community is here."

More student events will be offered throughout the semester, including virtual scavenger hunts, remote workouts and outdoor concerts. Students must log in and register for events through [Griz Hub](#), the University's central platform for students to join organizations and discover events on campus and in Missoula.

###

**Contact:** Sarah Swager, vice provost for Student Success, 406-243-5225,

[sarah.swager@umontana.edu](mailto:sarah.swager@umontana.edu); Adrienne Smith, University Center director, 406-243-6029, [adrienne.smith@mso.umt.edu](mailto:adrienne.smith@mso.umt.edu).

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UM / News / UM Begins Phase 1a of Vaccine Rollout



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

# UM BEGINS PHASE 1A OF VACCINE ROLLOUT

08 JANUARY 2021

UM employees who were indentified under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Phase 1a category guidelines received the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine this week. The vaccines were administered by UM health sciences staff in the University pharmacy

**MISSOULA** — The University of Montana began its first round of vaccinating employees and those who fall under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Phase 1a category for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

This week, UM Pharmacy Manager Kenneth Chatriand and staff in UM's Curry Health Center administered more than 100 doses of the Moderna vaccine to University employees who are considered health care personnel or have close, regular contact with COVID-positive persons as essential workers.

"This week we vaccinated our staff who work directly with patients, those who are testing students and those in health science fields," Chatriand said. "We also vaccinated many in our police force who are often transporting positive students."

Chatriand said the vaccination rollout on campus allows "us to hit the ground running so we can focus on our jobs and keep our campus safe and healthy."

Rachael Zins, assistant professor of pharmacy in UM's **Skaggs School of Pharmacy**, was one of the UM health sciences faculty to receive the vaccine Thursday.

She said teaching pharmacy students to safely and effectively administer the vaccine is a critical component of becoming a pharmacist, and it's good experience for them to not only receive the vaccine but administer it as well.

"We teach our students to be confident in their ability to administer any kind of vaccine, because they have to be certified to do so," Zins said. "That starts with understanding a patient's disease states, known allergies or if the patient is immunocompromised."

Zins said she never imagined she'd teach in a pandemic or that her students would have the hands-on experience of administering a vaccine in a modern public health crisis.

"I never thought in my life this would be happening," she said. "But it has been a moment to share with students in understanding that we are all only human and anything can happen."



Walter Hailes, a research associate in UM's [Montana Center for Work Physiology and Exercise Metabolism](#), also received the vaccine Thursday. Hailes works closely with human subjects in an exercise lab, where breathing heavily and rapidly is "a daily occurrence," he said.

"I feel good today, and I'm glad I'm here," Hailes said. "Eliminating the risk, especially in our research, is so important. While we're all waiting for a return to normal, the best we can do is follow the protocol and wait for cases to go down."

Brent Ruby, a professor in UM's School of Integrative Physiology and Athletic Training, said getting vaccinated was a historic moment.

"This is a significantly huge moment for me and not one I'm going to forget," Ruby said. "I'm in awe how quickly and thoughtfully our staff in health sciences, the pharmacy and Curry Health Center have responded to this and how quickly they're moving to keep all of us safe."

The UM Pharmacy is owned and operated by the University's [Skaggs School of Pharmacy](#) and is located in UM's Curry Health Center. Chatriand will work with students staffed at the pharmacy and with UM's [College of Health](#) programs, including nursing students at [Missoula College](#), to organize vaccine distribution.

Chatriand said he expects to receive about 500 Moderna vaccines next week, with plans to organize distribution for those who fall within the state guidance of the vaccination phased categories.

Capitalizing on its robust bioscience infrastructure, research facilities and statewide network of student and alumni pharmacists, the State of Montana selected the flagship as an approved vaccine holding and distributor center in December, allowing UM to serve as one of Montana's most significant vaccine distributors.

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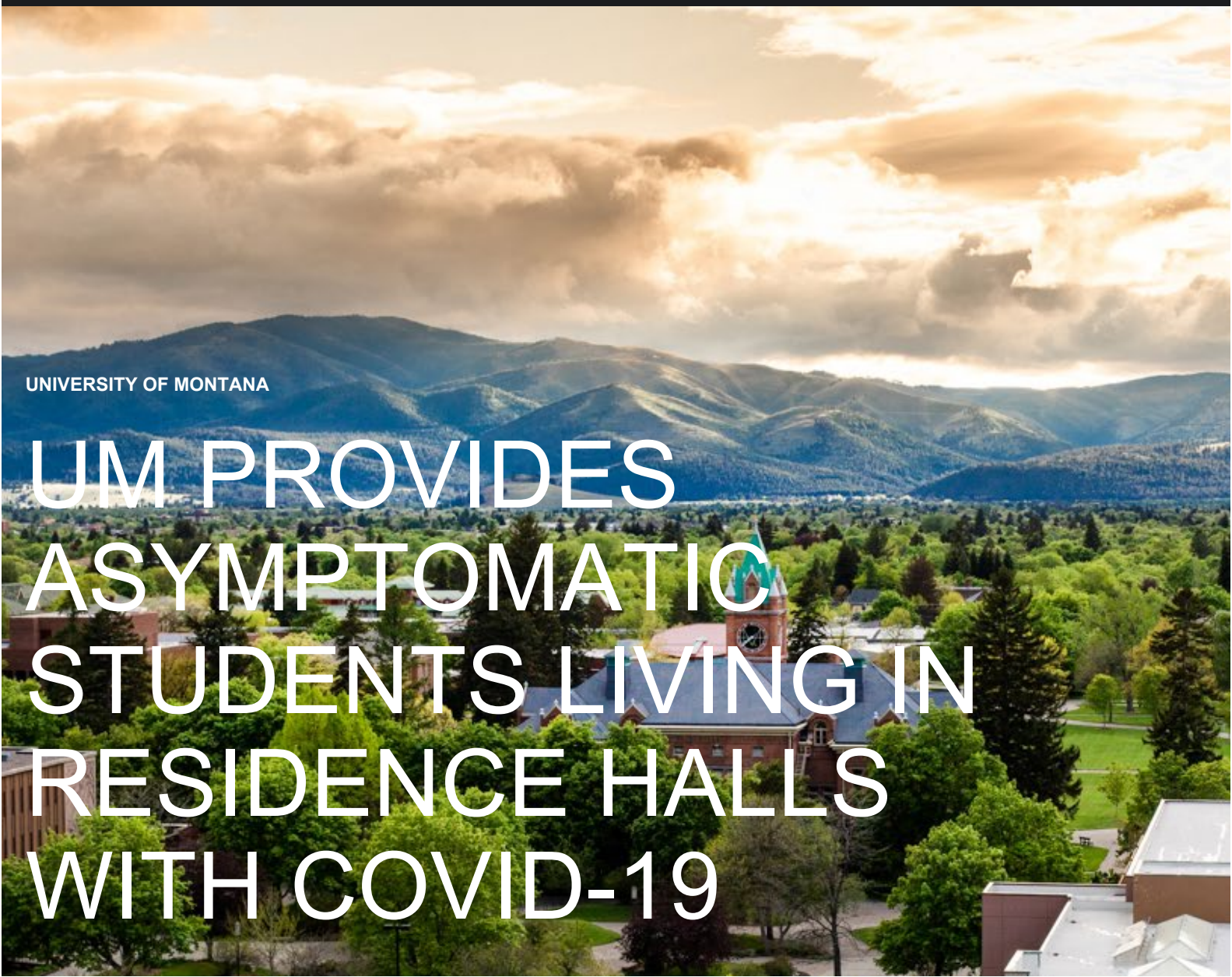
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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

# UM PROVIDES ASYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS LIVING IN RESIDENCE HALLS WITH COVID-19



**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana will provide all students living in residence halls with access to asymptomatic COVID-19 tests upon their return to campus for spring semester.

Students who live in on-campus residence halls can receive their asymptomatic COVID-19 test for free.

“To keep our campus and community safe, it is critical that students who live in our residence halls have access to COVID-19 tests as they return to campus from winter break,” said Dr. Jeff Adams, medical director of UM’s Curry Health Center. “Being able to offer asymptomatic testing as students return to residence halls will result in early detection and rapid response to prevent COVID-19 transmission within these congregate living environments. The medical team at Curry Health Center went above and beyond to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our residence halls last fall, and we are in strong position to provide the same level of high-quality care to all UM students again during the spring semester.”

Due to limited testing resources statewide, only UM students living within residence halls will be eligible to receive asymptomatic COVID-19 tests during the first two weeks of the semester. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education chose to prioritize the testing for students living on campus due to the volume and density of their housing arrangement, compared to UM students who live off campus. All students experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms also can receive a free COVID-19 test regardless of their living arrangement.

UM this week also updated its [Campus COVID Operations Plan](#), which provides guidance, best practices and information related to UM’s effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As a result of diligent efforts and communication, UM-affiliated COVID-19 transmissions remained a small fraction of Missoula County’s COVID-19 positive cases in 2020.

“Whether it is in person, remote or a hybrid of both, everyone at UM is committed to seeing our



students continue their education during the pandemic,” said UM President Seth Bodnar. “The policies that we have put in place on our campus to reduce the spread of COVID-19 are working, and we will continue to prioritize the health and safety of every student and employee at UM – just as we did last fall.”

In addition to curbing the spread of COVID-19 this spring semester, UM students, faculty and staff are actively working to end the pandemic. **UM was named as a COVID-19 vaccine provider and distributor** last month, and is on standby for the arrival of vaccines. Last year, UM’s Center for Translational Medicine was **awarded \$2.5 million from the National Institutes of Health to produce a COVID-19 vaccine candidate.**

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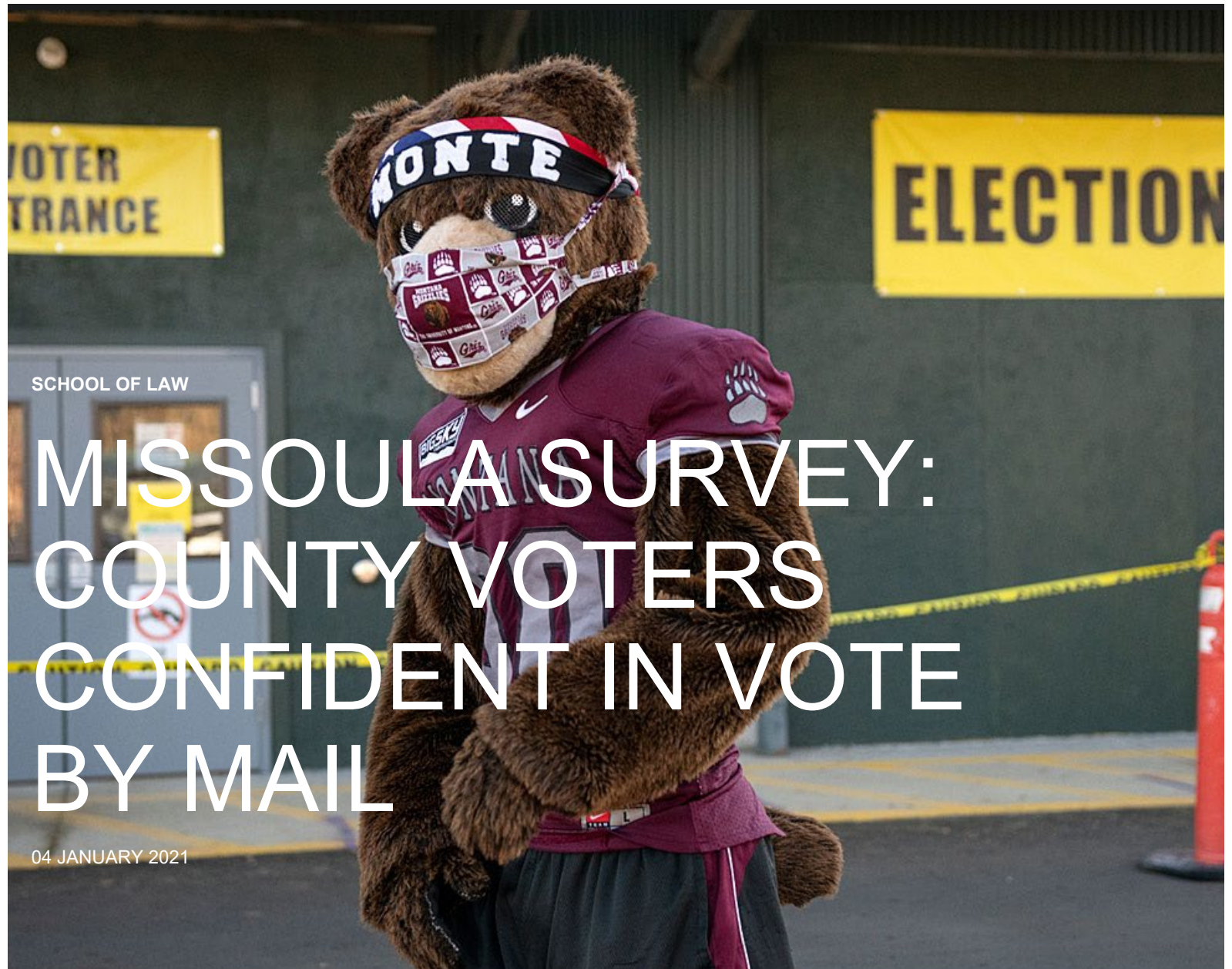


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UM / News / Missoula Survey: County Voters Confident in Vote by Mail



SCHOOL OF LAW

# MISSOULA SURVEY: COUNTY VOTERS CONFIDENT IN VOTE BY MAIL

04 JANUARY 2021



**MISSOULA** – Researchers from the University of Montana’s Department of Public Administration and Policy recently asked nearly 698 Missoula County residents, “Are you confident Missoula County is free of voter fraud?”

Eighty-nine percent of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with this statement. In addition, 79% are confident in Missoula County’s vote-by-mail process.

This survey, funded by the Missoula County Elections Office, examined 698 registered voters’ perceptions of their voting experiences and election practices during the November 2020 election.

“We think it is important to listen to voter thoughts on the elections in Missoula County,” said Bradley Seaman, Missoula County election administrator. “The data from this survey will help us to better serve voters in the future. We are excited about our partnership with the UM Department of Public Administration and Policy and continuing to work to improve the election process.”

The overall findings indicate that county residents are highly satisfied with their most recent voting experience, are confident in the administration of elections in the county and hold the Missoula County Election Office in high regard.

Eighty-four percent of respondents indicated that they are satisfied with the vote-by-mail process. Ninety percent of Missoula County voters believe the Elections Office delivered the November 2020 election at a level on-par with, or better than, 2018.

Eighty percent of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, “I am confident that [the November 2020] election results are accurate.”

UM faculty members Sara Rinfret and Christina Barsky led this University research project with their graduate student Shane St. Onge. They noted the strong performance of the Missoula County Elections Office during the November 2020 general election.

“This 2020 election study on Missoula County provides important baseline data for Montana elections during a pandemic, which is first-of-its kind for the state,” Rinfret said.

A presentation of the study’s full results will be presented from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, for the public and Missoula County Elections Advisory Committee. **The results meeting will be held online.** Email [electioninfo@missoulacounty.us](mailto:electioninfo@missoulacounty.us) for more information.

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