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UM Alumna Awarded Another Rare Foreign Language Opportunity
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UM Professor Awarded $430,000 NASA Grant

03 MAY 2021

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS AND MEDIA

Award-Winning UM Journalism School Offers Free Summer Camp

03 MAY 2021
UM Honors College Names Provost’s, Dean’s Scholars
MISSOULA – A talented group of incoming freshmen will arrive at the University of Montana this fall as the Davidson Honors College’s new Provost’s Honors Scholars and Dean’s Leadership Scholars.

The scholarships are among the most prestigious awards for incoming students in UM’s Davidson Honors College and significantly reduce the cost of attending UM.

In 2020, UM announced its inaugural class of Provost’s Honors Scholars. The scholarships are awarded to students around the nation based on academic performance, public service, leadership, personal qualities and potential for future impact. Based on the same criteria, Dean’s Leadership Scholars are recognized for academic excellence, demonstrated leadership and potential.

The students hail from across Montana and states in the West and the Midwest and will study a diversity of fields from wildlife biology to political science to art.

DHC Dean Tim Nichols said this year’s incoming students are accomplished scholars, athletes, artists and leaders in their schools and communities.

“The exemplary academic records of this class are even more impressive given the many challenges they overcame during the global pandemic,” Nichols said. “We are thrilled to welcome them to the Davidson Honors College, where they will be surrounded by other talented, motivated students for an elevated, enriched and enlivened UM education.”

The class of 2021 Provost Honors Scholars are:

ALASKA

Aveline Larroque of Anchorage, Alaska, intends to study chemistry at UM. Larroque has been active in Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial, Anchorage Youth Court and Battle of the Books and likes reading, knitting, crocheting and biking. As a future chemist, Larroque’s favorite element is ytterbium.
CALIFORNIA

Jaiden Mae Stansberry from Yosemite National Park, California, is interested in forestry. She volunteered in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Yosemite National Park with its Preventative Search and Rescue Program, informing visitors about safety precautions while hiking and assisting with rescues. She also painted a community mural at a local store. Stansberry is a valedictorian and International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate. This summer, she will receive her Red Card for wildland firefighting to pursue a career with the Park Service. National parks are nothing new to Stansberry, who always has lived inside them.

Jocelyn Stansberry from Yosemite National Park, California, plans to study wildlife biology at UM. She was captain of her cross-country team and is a state champion distance runner. She has conducted research on invasive turkey populations in Yosemite. Stansberry was co-founder and treasurer of her school's Get Outdoors Club, which encourages students to
engage with nature. She also was involved in Mock Trial and a special Glacier Education program.

IDAHO

Clemens Wilson of Boise, Idaho, is interested in economics. He is an accomplished cellist and has performed with the Boise High symphonic and chamber orchestras, as well as the Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. In addition to music, Wilson enjoys the outdoors, backpacking, skiing, river surfing and hiking. He also speaks fluent German.

Taylor Sadewic from Sandpoint, Idaho, plans to major in communicative sciences and disorders, with a minor in human and family development. She is interested in becoming a speech pathologist and one day working with children with autism. Sadewic loves to ride, compete and give horseback riding lessons. She was involved in the 4-H program for the past 11 years and mentored and led younger children. She enjoys the outdoors, hiking, backpacking, skiing, yoga and
playing the flute and guitar. In Missoula she would like to learn to rock climb and whitewater raft.

WASHINGTON

Judah Garcia of Sumner, Washington, is interested in political science and forestry. Garcia has completed the full IB diploma, is involved in the National Honor Society and was a cross-country captain. Garcia enjoys running, hiking and fishing and is looking forward to the academic community at the DHC and spending time outdoors and in and around Missoula. He is not afraid to try new things and can play a few chords on the banjo.

The 2021 class of Dean’s Leadership Scholars are:

MONTANA

Cascade

Georgia BAlius is interested in political science, law, philosophy and computer science. She was student council treasurer, a member of the National Junior Honor Society and
National Honor Society and a volunteer at the Great Falls Public Library. She has earned the President's Award for Academic Excellence, Head of School Honor Roll, Dean's List at Great Falls College-Montana State University, ASCI's Distinguished Christian High School Students Award, various science fair awards and a Scholar Athlete Award. Balius graduated high school one year early with an Associate of Arts degree from Great Falls College-MSU. She also was a United States Senate Youth Program Scholar 2021 and received National Merit Recognition. She likes baking, reading, hiking and collecting books. She has a collection of over 200 books so far.

Charlo

**Aryal Love** is interested in psychology and exploring law school after graduation. Love was president of National Honor Society, president of 4-H Club, president of Health Occupations Students of America and secretary of the student council. She enjoys running and reading and has worked as a barista, babysitter and pipe changer. She also led a pack trip in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, taking care of guests and livestock.

Great Falls

**Logan Corn** is interested in exploring the sciences and marketing. Corn has been involved in his high school health occupations group, as well as football and the National Honor Society. Corn likes sports, the outdoors, reading and working
Kevin Northey is interested in studying management information systems and finance. He is a Special Olympics volunteer and has participated in a community outreach program through his high school athletics department. He served as the secretary/treasurer of the National Honor Society and the treasurer of Business Professionals of America, as well as an intern in the Governor’s Budget Office. Northey is a force to be reckoned with, not just in the classroom, but also as a three-time Academic All-State football athlete. He enjoys golf, fishing, hiking and pick-up basketball with his brothers. He is looking forward to Griz football games and challenging himself with the diverse curriculum that the DHC provides. Northey has seen “The Office” so many times that he can describe nearly every episode based on its title.

Jack Gannon is interested in studying history. Gannon was president of the Flathead High School Science Club and a low brass section leader. He was recognized as a National Merit Scholar.
Jayden Beed is interested in marketing. Beed has been active and successful in DECA, Student Action Committee Leadership, debate, National Honor Society and Business Professionals of America. Beed placed second at AA State Speech and Debate. She enjoys debate, sports, volunteering, photography, boating, fishing and anything business-related. She is excited to join the UM and DHC family and is looking forward to this next level of her education.

Sam Phillips will explore his many interests as an undeclared student at the UM. Phillips has been active in the Missoula community through his volunteer service at the Missoula Food Bank and Community Center, as a soccer coach, as student body vice president and a marching band drum captain. This former Student of the Month enjoys tennis, skiing, videogames, poker, hiking and listening to music. He has worked as a barista, busboy and is food-safety certified. He looks forward to
the focused learning environment of the DHC.

Lauren Sheehan is interested in biology and pursuing a career in medicine. While at Sentinel High School, Sheehan was engaged with student council, Providence Montana Junior Board, the Jadyn Fred Foundatio and Mismo Gymnastics. She is a recipient of the George Eastman Young Leaders Award, Academic Letter and Academic All-State. At UM, she plans to join ROTC, as well as the DHC.

Logan Stabnau is interested in physics. He has been active in the Missoula community through volunteer activities at the Missoula Food Bank and Community Center and the local ice rink. Stabnau enjoys traveling and hopes to visit as many new places as possible through his college years.
Pinesdale

Emma Jessop is a graduate of Corvallis High School and will study microbiology at UM. Jessop, who comes from a large, close-knit family, also plays piano and ukulele. She was president of Interact, a service club in her school.

Rapelje

Sebastián Lara Ambriz is interested in studying art at UM. He has been actively engaged with the National Honor Society, running a local newsletter and serving as a technical assistant at his local church. Ambriz is a beekeeper’s assistant and loves writing fiction.
Whitefish

Luca Welle is interested in environmental studies. Welle served on the Montana Future Fisheries Improvement Project’s Citizen Review Panel, which allocates funds for various fishery restoration initiatives. He has volunteered as an advocate for climate action with organizations such as Climate Smart Glacier Country and Citizen’s Climate Lobby. He enjoys all outdoor activities, such as hiking, kayaking and skiing, as well as participating in theatre and reading a good book – especially science-fiction.

ARKANSAS

Hartley Meyer is a 4.0 student from Little Rock, Arkansas, who will study wildlife biology at UM. An enthusiastic veteran of science fairs, Meyer has studied bald eagle nesting, overpopulation among urban white tail deer, chemical levels in the Mississippi River Valley and the environmental biodegradation of styrofoam through mealworms. She is a shooting sports enthusiast and hopes to hike the Appalachian Trail. Meyer, who plays the clarinet, has also been involved in
gymnastics, sailing club and STEM Club leadership.

IOWA

William Austin from Davenport, Iowa, is interested in physics and astronomy. He was active in his high school's student council and in local service activities. He has been recognized as an AP Scholar, DAR Good Citizen and Honor Roll student, and he received the Novello Tech and Rotary awards. Austin is interested in skiing, soccer, video games and history. He grew up in Utah and moved to Iowa five years ago, and his love for the mountains influenced his decision to apply to UM. The beautiful environment and the friendly staff and students are just a few of the things that he is looking forward to at UM and the DHC.

WASHINGTON

Erika Isern will pursue cognitive neuroscience at UM. She is a graduate of Mount Spokane High School in Mead, Washington, where she was vice president of DECA and managed the school store. Isern, who comes from a large family, served as a nanny for two young children and as a camp counselor. She is
a lover of literature and passionate about the human brain.

WISCONSIN

Quinn Lamers is a 4.0 student from Rhinelander High School in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Lamers was quarterback and captain of his football team. He also was treasurer of the National Honor Society and on the Link Crew, mentoring younger students. He was a commended National Merit Scholar and two-time student of the month. Lamers, an avid outdoorsman, describes a money management course as his most powerful educational experience.

Contact: Tim Nichols, UM Davidson Honors College dean, 406-243-2534, timothy.nichols@umontana.edu.
UM Researcher: Framework Needed for Moving Species in Response to Climate Change
MISSOULA – While the world continues to grapple with measures to slow climate change, University of Montana conservation researcher Jedediah Brodie has been more focused lately on what additional measures are needed to stem the tide of extinctions.

Brodie is the lead author of an article recently published in Science magazine calling for the establishment of an international policy to set guidelines for species conservation and climate change adaption through assisted colonization – moving climate-vulnerable species into new areas to avoid the deterioration of climatic conditions in their historical ranges.

According to research, one-third of species may now have an increased risk of extinction from climate change. In response, Brodie and fellow authors suggest that many organisms that can’t adapt will “either need to move poleward in latitude, upward in elevation, downward in water depth, or to refugial areas that might lie outside their current or historical indigenous ranges.”

A big idea for a big problem, to be sure, but one that is not insurmountable, Brodie said.
“Humans have been moving species around all over the globe for millennia, and we've got well-established protocols for doing this for conservation purposes,” Brodie said. “What makes assisted colonization more difficult than other conservation translocations is that you're moving a species into an area where it hasn't naturally occurred for a long time or ever.”

Even so, Brodie said, these logistical hurdles promise to be easier to summit than the political ones, which is at the heart and purpose of the Science article. In it, the researchers urge the governing body of the UN’s Convention on Biological Diversity – which meets later this year in China – to empower a technical committee to evaluate and regulate assisted colonization. The CBD treaty, ratified by 196 nations, encourages actions leading to a sustainable future.

Assisted colonization has long been discussed by scientists but rarely deployed. One instance cited by Brodie is an ongoing effort by a private group to save, through assisted colonization, an endangered conifer tree, Torreya taxifolia, whose native range is a small section along the eastern bluffs of the Apalachicola River in the Florida panhandle.

These often-scattershot efforts frequently lack guidance and oversight, the authors note, and run the real risk of unintended consequences such as the establishment of invasive species.

“The most important thing to do is vetting beforehand,” Brodie said. “It’s actually very difficult to predict which species might become invasive in particular areas, but there are risk-assessment protocols and tools for making decisions in the face of substantial uncertainty.”

More certain will be the need for programs on a scale large enough to assist species in migrating across international boundaries and around infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and other disturbances, both human created and natural.

“Some of the most at-risk ecosystems are oceanic islands, particularly those that are relatively low in elevation,” Brodie said. “Species in these areas have nowhere to go if climatic conditions become unsuitable. And islands hold a significant portion of global biodiversity.”

Although the Science article focuses primarily on assisted colonization, the authors also address the possibility of moving genetic material, through gene editing, from one species to another to promote greater resilience to warming environments. They note that such “assisted evolution” is already being considered for a variety of species, including corals and trees, while also acknowledging that this avenue raises complicated questions about species identification.
and the limits of intervention taken in the name of conservation.

Brodie calls the idea “both intriguing and scary” and points to the need for careful planning on an international scale.

Of course Montana wildlife is not immune to the negative impacts of global warming. Brodie points to the diminutive pika as one species that could one day be a candidate for assisted colonization.

“They’re alpine dwellers and local populations can be driven extinct if summers get too hot or there isn't enough winter snowpack,” he said.

In whatever form assisted colonization takes, the authors write that the time is now to shape its ultimate implementation.

“Ideas for action consistently run ahead of policy to guide responsible action,” said Mark Schwartz of the University of California at Davis, a co-author of the study. “As we embrace managing biodiversity on a radically changing planet, now is the time for global governance on how to responsibly engage in assisted colonization, including when not to deploy such actions.”

Adds Brodie, “The path to success is through the CBD. The upcoming conference in China is the best opportunity to get the ball rolling.”

###

What the other co-authors are saying about assisted colonization:

Dr. Susan Lieberman, vice president for International Policy, Wildlife Conservation Society: “Many governments have not yet established regulations or policy frameworks around assisted colonization but the need for such efforts is increasingly urgent. The accelerating rates of the climate and biodiversity emergencies necessitate engagement from many stakeholders and sectors of society. International leadership through the CBD that brings together experts can provide a model for national policies.”

Axel Moehrenschlager of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Conservation Translocation Specialist Group and Calgary Zoo: “Increasingly life and death decisions need to
be made to help save species. Assisted colonization is a powerful conservation translocation tool that can help prevent extinction of plants and animals in all ecosystems on Earth. Like many innovations, it needs to be employed thoughtfully to maximize profound benefits for nature and humanity.”

Philip J. Seddon of the University of Otago: “Rapid environmental change is challenging traditional conservation management approaches, such as ecosystem restoration to some arbitrary past target state. We need to recognize that historically suitable sites for some species have or will become unable to support viable populations in the near future, and the barriers to natural dispersal, many of which humans have created, will trap some species and doom them to extinction unless we intervene. We need to be able to assist such stranded species to access suitable areas of habitat, wherever these lie.”

Said James Watson of the University of Queensland: “The status quo in how we do conservation will not work – regardless of the level of ambition outlined in climate change and biodiversity agenda – for many species around the world. Climate change, alongside death and taxes, are the only true certainties we face, and nations around the world now need guidance in how best to deal with helping species survive the current climate crisis.”

Said Jon Paul Rodríguez of IUCN Species Survival Commission: “A desired outcome of all the work that we do is the implementation of evidence-based conservation interventions by policy makers and governments. It requires that scientific research be repackaged for multiple audiences, synthesized and adapted to local contexts. Creating international guidelines that reflect the consensus of academics, practitioners, communicators and local communities, for example, is an important gap that must be addressed.”

**Contact:** Jedediah Brodie, UM associate professor and John Craighead Chair of Conservation, 406-243-5528, jedediah.brodie@mso.umt.edu.
UM Researcher: Framework Needed for Moving Species in Response to Climate Change
UM RESEARCH SUGGESTS SOCIAL FACTORS IMPORTANT FOR HUMAN-WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE
MISSOULA – In bear country, it’s normal to find bruins munching down on temptations left out by humans – from a backyard apple tree to leftovers in the trash bin – but these encounters can cause trouble for humans and bears alike. One method to reduce human-bear conflicts is to secure attractants like garbage and livestock feed.

While effective when implemented, this approach requires people to change their behavior, and that makes things a little more complicated.

University of Montana researchers recently published a new study in the Journal of Wildlife Management analyzing why landowners do or don’t secure attractants in bear country. The results suggest that collective or socially motivated factors may be a missing and important piece of the puzzle for encouraging voluntary steps to secure attractants and improve wildlife-human coexistence. The researchers also offer suggestions for how wildlife managers might help increase these behaviors through improved messaging and outreach.

Social scientists in UM’s Human Dimensions Lab, housed in UM’s W. A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, classify human-wildlife interactions as a public-good, collective-action problem – a problem where solutions require contributions from many people and where people’s actions affect others. For the study, they applied this theory in Montana’s black bear and grizzly bear ranges to investigate how individual and collective factors work together to influence whether landowners secure bear attractants on their land.

“A collective-action problem requires the efforts of two or more individuals to solve,” said Holly Nesbitt, a doctoral
candidate in the College of Forestry and Conservation and the study’s lead author. “We’re arguing that securing bear attractants – that coexistence with wildlife – is a collective-action problem because you need multiple people – land owners specifically – to pull it off. Their actions protect themselves and their neighbors.”

Nesbitt and her coauthors analyzed data from a 2018 survey of Montana landowners meant to understand their attitudes and behaviors related to bears. Among other questions, the survey asked people about their willingness to secure different attractants, like using bear-resistant garbage bins and removing bird feeders.

Researchers found that the most important factor in determining if a landowner would secure attractants was whether that landowner had talked to a wildlife professional.

“We think that landowners who have talked to a wildlife professional have received information more easily than those who haven’t,” Nesbitt said. “In theory, they have reduced the time costs of securing attractants, so we think that’s why they are more likely to use bear-proof garbage cans, for example.”

Other collective factors, like whether their neighbors secure attractants, and the existence of discussion networks (for example, how much social influence an individual has) were equally as important as individual factors like beliefs, age or gender.

“The fact that this is a collective-action problem – that we’re in it together, that it needs all of us
to solve it, that our behavior has impact on our neighbors, too – leads us to the conclusion that what people are doing around us matters and influences our own behavior,” says UM Assistant Professor Alex Metcalf, a coauthor on the study.

The researchers hope the results help wildlife managers reimagine how they communicate with landowners.

For example, wildlife managers and outreach coordinators could potentially increase attractant securing behavior by emphasizing collective factors in addition to individual factors.

“With any sort of outreach or messaging to landowners, there’s maybe another opportunity to lean on these other collective factors and include more normative messaging. It might be more effective,” Nesbitt said. “Instead of saying, ‘Bears are dangerous. Secure your attractants,’ say, ‘It’s really important to your neighbors that you secure your attractants. Your neighbor is doing it, too.’ Our data suggests that kind of messaging is likely to be more effective at promoting voluntary behaviors.”

The researchers also say, based on the findings, that wildlife agencies would be justified in increasing their efforts to connect with landowners in person, as well as with members of the public who play an important role in discussion networks.

“Our wildlife professionals are critical in connecting with the public, playing an integral role in educating, listening and empowering landowners,” said co-author Libby Metcalf, UM’s Joel Meier Distinguished Professor of Wildland Management.

While large carnivore populations are decreasing across most of the globe, grizzly and black bear populations are increasing in Montana, offering a unique locale to study how humans and wildlife interact. Nesbitt and her co-authors say understanding how to manage conflict with large carnivores has never been more pressing.

“We need a more comprehensive understanding of how people behave in these situations, and it’s often not as simple as we think,” Alex Metcalf said.

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**Contact:** Alex Metcalf, assistant professor of UM’s Human Dimensions Lab, 814-574-6128,
UM Research Suggests Social Factors Important for Human-Wildlife Coexistence

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DAVIDSON HONORS COLLEGE

UM ANNOUNCES 2021 RECIPIENTS OF PRESTIGIOUS PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP
MISSOULA – The University of Montana recently named the recipients of the 2021 Presidential Leadership Scholarship, the University’s most prestigious academic recognition for incoming students.

The 21 Presidential Leadership Scholars were chosen out of hundreds of qualified applicants from across the world and represent the pinnacle of academic excellence and service to the community. Presidential Leadership Scholars will enroll in UM’s Davidson Honors College, in addition to their chosen undergraduate disciplines. At UM they will contribute to academic innovation, garner professional development and enhance leadership skills.

“These scholars chose the University of Montana over dozens of other institutions because of the academic rigor and the unique pathway to inclusive prosperity offered by the Davidson Honors College,” DHC Dean Tim Nichols said. “We are thrilled to welcome our nation's future leaders to Missoula, where they will thrive academically, promote public service and strengthen our vibrant on-campus experience. Our fall 2021 cohort of students is to be especially commended for their remarkable achievements and service through the challenges of the global pandemic.”

The Presidential Leadership Scholarship is a four-year scholarship for incoming UM students. Students are reviewed based on their applications and a rigorous interview process. Scholarship recipients are recognized for their academic ability, leadership skills, public service and other merit-based qualifications.

“This fall’s diverse and dynamic class of Presidential Leadership Scholars includes future scientists and physicians, journalists, lawyers, educators, business leaders and performing artists,” Nichols said. “They are valedictorians and varsity athletes, student council officers and all-state musicians. They are advocates for diversity, the environment and for social justice. They already have and will continue to make a difference in their communities.”
The 21 Presidential Leadership Scholars will enroll at UM in the fall and represent five states and three countries, including 12 scholars who hail from Montana. The 2021 UM Presidential Leadership Scholars are:

**MONTANA**

**Cascade**

**Wyatt Balius** is interested in studying political science, history and philosophy at UM. He was a member of the Cascade High School student council and active in National Junior Honor Society. He also received the President’s Award for Educational Excellence, Order of The Eyas Character Award and the Scholar Athlete award, and he participated in the regional science fair. In addition to playing guitar, hiking and skiing, Balius works on a certified organic family farm and ranch.

**Bozeman**

**Kate Bick** is interested in pursuing a career in medicine, majoring in neuroscience and psychology at UM. Bick was the valedictorian and Academic All-State qualifier at Bozeman High School. She was a former officer of Bozeman High School’s gender equality club and was recognized as one of Forward Montana’s 25 under 25 awardees for LGBTQ+ advocacy. She also was awarded the Bozeman High School Noteworthy Student Scholarship. An avid hiker, Bick has climbed the tallest peak in Montana.
Annabelle Brown intends to major in wildlife biology and minor in journalism and resource conservation at UM. Brown volunteered with the Montana Conservation Corps and participated in a backcountry rock climbing course through the National Outdoor Leadership School in the Wind River Mountains. She also has been involved in a university field-based research project regarding the Pika population. Brown was active in the National Honor Society and loves to climb, ski and mountain bike.


Mary Catlett is interested in studying physics, mathematics and astronomy at UM. In high school, she was the alto section leader for the concert and jazz choir. Catlett was actively involved in the Environmental Awareness Club and the Solar Panel Club and was recognized by the College Board’s National Recognition program as a National Rural and Small Town Recognition winner.

Billings

Camden Capser graduated from Billings Central Catholic High School, where he earned a 4.0 grade-point average and was co-student body president. Capser was also president of the Excel Service Club and was active in Billings Youth Leadership. He was captain of the Billings Central football team and was named to the All-State teams for both football and soccer. Capser will play for the Grizzly football team this fall.

Great Falls

Nathan Kornick is a graduate of Great Falls High School and is interested in studying journalism and media arts at UM. He was captain of the high school football team and the recipient
of the Derek Dowson No. 40 Legacy Jersey for the football program. He also received the Ron and Becky Nelson CTE Scholarship and is a finalist for the Jake Arntson Teammate of the Year Scholarship. Kornick writes online movie reviews and has a YouTube channel called “Nathan The Movie Guy,” where he posts movie-related videos.

Helena

Owen Cleary intends to study music performance at UM. While attending Helena High School, he was a member of Montana Youth Action and led many music ensembles. Cleary has been a part of the National Honor Society and was named an AP Scholar with Distinction. He was an honorable mention in the Montana Associate of Symphony Orchestras Young Artist Competition, was an All-Northwest Orchestra honoree in 2021 and a member of the first-place 2020 Montana Science Bowl team. He was recognized as a 2021 Distinguished Scholar by the Helena Education Foundation.

Natalie Renk is a graduate of Capital High School and plans to study theatre and education at UM. She has served as the secretary of the Montana State Thespian Board and was an
active participant at Grandstreet Theatre in Helena. Renk was named Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy, as well as earning the Award of Excellence from the Congress of Future Medical Leaders. Her hobbies include acting, singing and performing in any way possible.

Kalispell

Skyleigh Thompson graduated summa cum laude from Flathead High School and is interested in studying physical therapy and business at UM. She was chosen as captain of the Flathead High School soccer team, student body president and National Honor Society president. While in high school, Thompson also led the Flathead High School food drive. She was recognized as Academic All-State and will play for the UM Women’s Soccer team this fall.

MISSOULA

Nicole Emlen is interested in studying biology at UM. At Sentinel High School, she played the clarinet and volunteered
at the Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium. Emlen is a recipient of the Montana University System Honors Scholarship and the Montana University System STEM Scholarship. In her free time, she loves photography, reading, bird watching, dancing, crocheting and everything music-related, including marching band, pep band and playing with ensembles.

Ellianna Hightower is a graduate of Hellgate High School and is interested in studying neuroscience and biology at UM. She was co-chair of the Providence Hospital Junior Board, chapter secretary of the Hellgate Business Professionals of America, an officer with the Students Against Violating the Environment and a National Honors Society member. Hightower is also an International Baccalaureate Diploma recipient. During high school, she successfully completed courses towards certification as an Emergency Medical Technician.

ALASKA

Daazhrai Alexander of Fort Yukon was the captain of high
school basketball team and served as student council president. A Dranjik Gwich’in Alaska Native, she is invested in learning about her culture and relying on subsistence hunting and fishing to live off the land. She learned about medicinal plants from her grandmother and makes her own skincare products and remedies using traditional medicinal plants, fat from animals and wax from their beehives. Alexander works as a heavy equipment operator for family logging business, and she set the high record three years in a row for Battle for the Books.

CALIFORNIA

Sylivia Blodorn of Bakersfield plans to double major in environmental science and sustainability and wildlife biology at UM. She also plans to explore climate change studies and UM’s Global Leadership Initiative. Blodorn has extensive volunteer experience in her community through the National Honor Society, Virtual Enterprise and at her school through service activities and the swim and dive team. She is a triathlete and qualified for the 2020 USA Triathlon Nationals Competition. One of the things that led Blodorn to choose UM was its focus on field learning and experiences outside the classroom. She is passionate about the backcountry and interested in introducing more women to backpacking and the outdoors.
**Junior Burks of San Bernardino** is interested in studying physics at UM. He was in the National Honor Society and the I'll Make a Transformation in My Community clubs in high school. Burks also led a small workout group within his school's baseball program during the pandemic and has completed over 50 hours of community service. He received the Jonathan Dubell Community Service Legacy Award from his high school baseball program in 2019 for his contributions to the community.

**Grace Caufield of Livermore** is interested in studying wildlife biology and art at UM. She is the co-founder and president of her school's gardening club and regularly volunteers with elementary school classes. Caufield received the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence and was a North Coast Section Scholar Athlete.

**Karen Kleve of Redding.** Kleve is interested in studying parks, tourism and recreation management at UM. She has volunteered for the Redding's local Turtle Bay Exploration
Park and Benton Air Fair. She also earned an honorable mention for a fiction story she submitted to the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

**UTAH**

**Hattie Ransom of Alpine** is planning to study wildlife biology at UM. She volunteered at the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium and for Lone Peak High School’s Mountain Bike Team and was education coordinator for Utah County’s Audubon chapter. In summer 2021, Ransom is working for the U.S. Forest Service as a member of a trails crew. She also worked for a small tutoring and coaching business and wrote about mental health. Ransom is looking forward to UM’s world-renowned wildlife biology program, the outdoor opportunities in the area and the tight-knit community and educational opportunities of the Davidson Honors College.

**WASHINGTON**

**Annika Libby of Twisp** is interested in studying environmental studies, dance, classics and anthropology at UM. While in high school, she taught a dance class and
managed a business selling produce. Libby received a first-place award for the 2019 National History Day regional competition and published an article with the Northwest Book Lovers organization. She hopes to experience international trips with UM’s Franke Global Leadership Initiative and wants to study in other countries and learn at least one new language. She is a practicing Buddhist and attended a Tibetan monastery while living in Hawaii.

Madelyn Snow of Ellensburg is interested in studying biology at UM before launching a career in medicine. She has volunteered as a math tutor for primarily Spanish-speaking middle school students, as well as a COVID-19 vaccination clinic volunteer. She also was involved in student government and played varsity soccer. Snow was recognized as an Ellensburg High School Elite Scholar and participated in Running Start at Central Washington University. She enjoys being outdoors, including hiking, fishing, hunting and kayaking.
Chaw Akari San of Yangon will study pre-medical sciences at UM. San volunteered at Hninzigone Home for the Aged Hospital and is co-founder of the Friday Charity Program and is a leader for a Youth Entrepreneurship Project. She has found joy in learning the Hindi language and draws inspiration from Miley Cyrus' “The Climb.” She has a sweet tooth, and her favorites include chocolate chip pancakes and Indian fried donuts.

SCOTLAND

Rosie Sterk of Allan is interested in studying finance and astronomy at UM. She led the PlayUnified program, which integrates students with and without complex learning and physical disabilities for sports, cooking, art and reading. Sterk received the Business Management Subject Prize for being top of her class, as well as receiving high school awards for Academic Excellence and Commitment to School Values (Effort, Conduct, Courtesy and Work Ethic). She loves playing the guitar, traveling and watching and playing multiple sports, including badminton, basketball and tennis. Sterk will join UM Tennis next spring.

Contact: Tim Nichols, UM Davidson Honors College dean, 406-243-2534,
UM Announces 2021 Recipients of Prestigious Presidential Leadership Scholarships

timothy.nichols@umontana.edu.
UM Students Lead Prescribed Wildfire Burn on University Ranch

21 MAY 2021
A UM student and wildland firefighter walks on UM’s Bandy Ranch in April during a prescribed burn event hosted by the University. The prescribed burn took two years to plan and included several UM FireCenter staff, students and professors.

MISSOULA — In mid-April on the University of Montana-owned Bandy Ranch in neighboring Powell County, the snow was still visible on the surrounding Garnet Mountains, geese were honking overhead and Cottonwood Creek was beginning to ripple.

But there would be a greater sound of the season that day.

Tree sap, water pockets and air popping, crackling and combusting from heat, and the swinging of Pulaskis into hard ground as bright orange flames raced up conifers against a backdrop of radio static and beeps.

“The first rule of fire is that it depends on batteries,” said LLoyd Queen, UM professor and director of UM’s FireCenter. “Everything runs on batteries – headlamps, radios, weather stations.”

Prescribed fires consist of purposely burning land to reduce the risk of wildfire and jumpstart rejuvenation of plant life. It was the University’s first-time hosting a cross-boundary prescribed fire, burning both UM property and adjacent land managed by other agencies.

As the world faces bigger and scarier wildfires, researchers and fire managers working together to prevent and manage them represents a new trend in fire science, Queen said.

The day also doubled as a hot and heavy training experience for UM students, who were front and center on the burn.
Several UM students from the UM Fire Club, many of whom are students in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, volunteered for the burn to receive prescribed burn experience for Red Card certifications.

“The burn has two objectives — one is ecological, one is educational,” Queen said. “The first is restoring the landscape, getting rid of debris and the second is providing an educational experience for students and partners on the burn.”

Queen was one of several FireCenter staff and UM professors in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation who joined forces with fire scientists from the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory, a research institute with the U.S. Forest Service, and personnel from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to manage the burn, which took about two years to plan. At about 3,500 acres, UM’s Bandy Ranch is a working cattle ranch that also serves as an exploratory extension of a classroom.

“This is a complicated prescribed burn, given the involvement of our students and combination of jurisdictions and research activities,” said Carl Seielstad, UM Fire and Fuels Program manager and associate professor. “We’ve got students, University property that’s part of the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station, the Forest Service and Montana FWP, all of whom are heavily and intimately involved.”
Seielstad, who authored the burn plan and secured the required permissions for the fire, served as the day’s incident commander or burn boss – or the main guy in charge if anything went wrong.

“From a fire management perspective, we are successful when executed safely, the burn doesn’t get out of control and the treatment meets the objectives of the burn plan,” Seielstad said.

The day’s charge included the lighting by drip torch of about 108 acres of native grassland and beetle-killed pine trees that included equal parts of Bandy Ranch, research plots from the Forest Service and the Montana FWP game range adjacent to the ranch.

Management of the fire also included a mix of 12 UM undergraduate and graduate students who either are members of the UM Fire Club, majoring in forestry or completing a minor in Fire Sciences and Management. One of the squad bosses included a graduate student in UM’s Computer Science Department who studies fire behavior models when not fighting fire.
The majority of students have summer jobs as wildland firefighters, and many were on hand that day to receive certification for experience on a prescribed burn for their Red Cards, agency-issued documents that certify that an individual has the training, experience and fitness to perform duties as a wildland firefighter.

“It’s a super fun and a really great opportunity to be out here, to be able to have this experience, particularly before many of us fight fire this summer,” said Mason Banks, president of UM’s Fire Club and driver of the “gator,” an all-purpose all-terrain vehicle, that day.

As Missoula and UM both serve as a national nexus of wildland fire expertise, the burn also served as an opportunity for a host of research for interagency and University research objectives with important implications for national wildfire prediction, response and management.

Some of those projects included examining modifications of fuel structure with fire behavior,
capturing 3D images for fire prediction models, better understanding how fire kills trees immediately and in the long-term documenting how energy and fuels interact for computer science models.

Russell Parsons, research ecologist with the Forest Service, was on the burn to capture footage via ground-based remote cameras to document the fire’s behavior, complementing aerial imagery captured by drone-based sensors flown by UM scientists.

“The drone allows us to see exactly what the fire is doing, down to the second,” Parsons said. “The footage will allow us to track thermal heat and watch that progression over space and time, which we plan to recreate in a computer model.”

As the country continues to see super wildfires, computational models of fire behavior can help predict fire dynamics and inform on-the-ground management and response. Parsons said the models have a particularly important role in helping managers consider different options and evaluate how prescribed fires or fuel treatments can help control fire. Parsons said he ultimately hopes to use the data to create simulation training for wildland firefighters.

“As we continue to see extreme droughts and high temperatures, we know wildfire is not going to get better, it’s going to get worse,” he said. “So, what we can do in the meantime is to model the fire so we can try to predict fuel and fire interactions in varying environments.”

Maggie Epstein, UM forestry
Carl Seielstad, UM Fire and Fuels Program manager and associate professor, talks with Maggie Epstein, a UM forestry graduate student who served as the fire's squad boss.

graduate student and squad boss that day, was responsible for the safety of the firefighters and reporting directly to the fire boss. Epstein had to manage the day's variables, including wind, fuels and moisture and delivered orders to the fire crew.

“I'm mostly in a lab between four and five days a week, so it's nice to get out and be on the line today,” she said. “It's exciting to be part of a burn that includes so many moving parts, objectives and agencies.”

As some parts of the fire petered out throughout the day, other areas jumped irrigation ditches and spot fires ignited outside of the containment line, adding for a bit of drama that the crew was fully prepared and trained to expect.

“Keeping fire within control lines is paramount, but threats like this are expected, planned for and they provide a learning opportunity to assess what we could change in the future to avoid these spot fires,” said Queen.

Queen said what sets UM's expertise in fire sciences apart is that most, if not all FireCenter
faculty and staff, serve as wildland firefighters when they’re not teaching or researching.

“It’s immensely important for us to not only serve as experts in the discipline, but to never lose that practice and connection with the field,” he said.

Ryan Kirk, a UM freshman from Eugene, Oregon, who is majoring in business, was also working the fire that day in preparation for spending the summer as a wildland firefighter in Wyoming.

“I’m glad to have this experience on my card, and I love being out here with other Fire Club volunteers,” he said. “A big reason why I chose UM is for these kinds of experiences. I can’t say working fire is easy or the hours aren't long, but it’s always fun. Addicting, actually.”

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**Contact:**  LLoyd Queen, UM fire professor and director of the UM FireCenter, lloyd.queen@firecenter.umt.edu
UM Students Lead Prescribed Wildfire Burn on University Ranch
UM Law Graduate Employment Rate Climbs to 94% Despite Pandemic
UM Law Graduate Employment Rate Climbs to 94% Despite Pandemic

Brandon Zeak, a UM class of 2020 law graduate, landed a job with the Missoula County Attorney's Office.

MISSOULA – Bucking a national downward trend caused in part by COVID-19, the employment rate for University of Montana law graduates climbed in 2020 compared to 2019.

Fully 94% of the Alexander Blewett III School of Law's class of 2020 were employed or seeking a post-graduate degree 10 months after graduation, and 86.9% were in full-time, long-term, bar-passage-required positions.

According to national statistics from the American Bar Association, 77.4% of 2020 graduates from 197 law schools approved by the ABA were employed in full-time, long-term bar-passage-required or Juris Doctor-advantage jobs roughly 10 months after graduation – an employment rate nearly 10% lower than UM law graduates.

“Despite the uncertainty of the past year, our graduates have been able to achieve their career goals and find employment at an exceptionally high rate,” said Katy Stack, the UM law school's director of career development.

UM class of 2020 graduate Brandon Zeak had been nervous about how the pandemic would impact his future employment, but the internship he had throughout law school at a local Missoula firm turned into a position as a litigation associate after graduation.

Although just starting his career as a civil attorney, Zeak saw the Missoula County Attorney's Office job opening for a deputy position inviting experienced attorneys to apply and decided to give it a shot because of his passion for criminal law. He hoped to at least make an impression on the County Attorney’s Office, he said, where he envisioned himself working in the future. To his surprise, he was offered the position.

“I could not be happier in my career right now,” he said. “This job has made me feel like I have found where I belong, and I believe that this is where I will practice until the end of my career.”

Among 2020 Blewett School of Law graduates, 33.3% began work in law firms, 21.7% found employment in public interest or government positions and 30.4% went on to clerkships, which are some of the most prestigious and competitive employment opportunities available to recent
law graduates.

“Our law school enjoys a high clerkship placement rate, and the class of 2020 was no exception,” Stack said. “Twenty-one of our 69 graduates were placed in state or federal court clerkships upon graduation, a percentage that is three times higher than the national average. Clerkships are a wonderful introduction to the practice of law and provide graduates with benefits that can last their entire careers.”

“It’s so gratifying to see our students complete their law school journeys and go on to careers of meaning serving their communities, state and nation,” said Paul Kirgis, dean of the Blewett School of Law.

For more information, visit the Blewett School of Law website at https://www.umt.edu/law.

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**Contact:** Andi Armstrong, director of marketing and communications, UM Alexander Blewett III School of Law, 406-243-6509, andrea.armstrong@umontana.edu.
UM Law Graduate Employment Rate Climbs to 94% Despite Pandemic
MontanaPBS Writer to Receive Prestigious Spur Award for Documentary

Charlie Russell’s Old West

Exploring the art and stories of Montana’s “Cowboy Artist.”
MISSOULA – Paul Zalis, writer and co-producer of the MontanaPBS production “Charlie Russell’s Old West,” will receive the 2021 Spur Award from the Western Writers of America.

Zalis was named the winner in the Documentary Script category. The winners are scheduled to be honored June 16-19 at WWA's convention in Loveland, Colorado.

“I’m honored to be not only receiving this prestigious award for our film about one of Montana’s most beloved citizens,” Zalis said, “but particularly to be in the company of past Spur Award winners such as Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan, Robert Utley, Tony Hillerman and Larry McMurtry. I’m thankful to the entire MontanaPBS team and for our truly extraordinary scholars and consultants for making the program a success.”

The documentary’s executive producer, William Marcus said that Zalis captured the humor and plain-spoken nature of Russell’s character.

“Paul worked around and through Charlie’s art and words to bring him closer to us in today’s hectic world,” Marcus said.

WWA promotes and honors the best in Western literature with its annual Spur Awards, which are selected by panels of judges. Awards – for material published last year – are given for works whose inspiration, image and literary excellence best represent the reality and spirit of the American West.
“Charlie Russell’s Old West” told the story of Montana’s cowboy artist. According to Zalis, no one played a larger role in mythologizing the cowboy’s place in American culture than Russell. The program explores his art and life as he witnessed and documented the end of the Wild West’s open range as America entered the 20th century.

For a list of this year’s Spur Award winners, visit http://www.westernwriters.org.

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

Contact: Paul Zalis, writer and co-producer, paulzalis@q.com or William Marcus, executive producer, william.marcus@umontana.edu.
MontanaPBS Writer to Receive Prestigious Spur Award for Documentary
Patrons and the bartender pose at the bar of the Alex Ross Saloon in Huson, Montana, circa 1905 or 1906. (Photo credit:
MISSOULA – Alcohol has intoxicated Americans since the dawn of the republic, and a University of Montana course details how booze has spilled into society’s consciousness up to the present with a special history project.

The class, Intoxication Nation, is taught by Kyle Volk, chair of UM's Department of History, who decided to “liven things up a bit” from traditional courses on American history.

Open to up to 35 students from all majors, this is the second year the class has produced oral histories – projects that capture living history. For the course, students complete a “Wet Missoula” project by interviewing subjects involved in the local alcohol scene (this year on Zoom) and creating a written transcript for future history.

“Students learn about their community and the people living in it,” Volk said. “Through this process, they also learn about the business of alcohol and potential careers in the field – an enormous sector of the economy with all sorts of possibilities.”

Whether called “booze, demon rum, hooch, poison, liquid courage, firewater” – according to Intoxication Nation’s course description – students in the class trace the saturation of alcohol into the country’s history from its very inception to the cocktail culture of the 1950s.
In the course Volk explores how rum – produced from molasses, a byproduct of sugar production and slave labor – became an essential commodity and object of currency in the 18th-century Atlantic world. Especially because of the fur trade, Native Americans also became rum drinkers. And although everyone knows of “no taxation without representation,” Volk said few are aware that the British empire taxed molasses, and thus rum, before tea.

As a bonus, students even learn how to throw a good cocktail party – as judged by a cocktail guide from the 1940s. But in the process, and somewhat more soberly, they learn how new modes of socialization emerged as white middle-class Americans flocked to the suburbs after World War II and what American neighborhoods and livability look like today.

Stephen Hayes, a UM student from Denver majoring in history and philosophy with plans to attend law school, said he joined the course to learn about a new piece of American history.

“I thought using alcohol as a lens to study the past was an intriguing approach that would allow me to see portions of American history about which I previously had little understanding,”
Hayes said. “Alcohol has been (and remains) an important force in American history, and yet I knew little about how and why that was so.”

Hayes said the course focuses on how Americans’ relationship with alcohol has changed over time – the types of alcohol, how much and where it is consumed – up to the craft alcohol boom today.

“The development of craft beer is something that has occurred only since the 1980s,” Hayes said. “It is a recent trend, but, as many a Missoulian could attest, it is a very salient one indeed.”

UM students first interviewed community members on the explosion of Missoula’s craft alcohol scene in 2018. Students examined the science of distillation with the owners of Montgomery Distillery, observed German pub culture at Bayern Brewery and gleaned insights on women-produced cider throughout history at Western Cider in Missoula.

“The idea with this project is for students to help capture the present moment so future researchers and interested members of the public will have special access to information and
insights — particularly those that might not be accessible in other sources,” Volk said.

This year, the interviews highlight how COVID-19 impacted alcohol culture and feature Missoula bar and brewery owners, bartenders and servers, an AA member, a recovery counselor, a sales rep for distribution companies and more.

For his “Wet Missoula” project, Hayes interviewed local sales rep Greg Ragan from Intermountain Distributing, a fine wine distributor in western Montana. As more and more Americans stayed home during COVID-19 and bought up wine and beer, wine distributor sales spiked and merchandisers worried about keeping gas stations stocked with beer.

Volk said oral history is the perfect way to capture the emotion surrounding what a business has gone through during a pandemic or what it was like to be a server or bartender during shutdowns and mask ordinances.

“I want students to gain an understanding of and appreciation for oral history as a skill and practice among professional historians,” Volk said, “as well as a hands-on appreciation for history in the making — to see history as a living, breathing and fundamentally dynamic force. This is a theme in all my classes, but oral history casts new light on it and gives students capacity to shape future histories by asking questions and recording responses for posterity.”
Capturing oral history is part of the UM History Department’s larger commitment to provide students access to hands-on, community-driven research. Through offering an Oral History Internship and a new Certificate in Public History, the department prepares the histories and historians of the future.

The “Wet Missoula” project will be posted with interview and transcripts to the Mansfield Library’s webpage once complete at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/wetmissoula_oralhistory/.

Second-year UM history majors Stephen Hayes and Dylan Yonce practice their oral history interviews on each other in preparation for their “Wet Missoula” projects, an important component of the Intoxication Nation course.

Contact: Kyle Volk, chair and associate professor, UM Department of History, 406-243-2979, kyle.volk@umontana.edu.
Raise a Glass: UM Class on Alcohol One for the Times
UM Offers Coding Boot Camp to Learners Statewide

17 MAY 2021
MISSOULA – Zach Falen works as a senior full-stack engineer and cloud architect for the Seattle office of a global consulting company. It’s a pretty tech-savvy job for a guy who earned a marketing degree from the University of Montana in 2017, and he contends the opportunity may never had happened if he hadn’t also beefed up his resume with a three-month boot camp at UM’s Montana Code School. He was part of the inaugural class in 2015.

So would he recommend the Montana Code School?

“That’s the understatement of the century,” said Falen, a self-described digital nomad who now has the freedom to work pretty much anywhere with internet. “It gave me the baseline skill set so that I could jump in and be useful on more or less any product team. It changed the way that I approach problems and work completely. And it opened up so many opportunities.”

Now, after a COVID-induced hiatus, Montana Code School is back. UM’s Missoula College and Promineo Tech have teamed to offer software development education accessible to learners across Montana. The new 18-week boot camp will prepare graduates to fill open roles within a tech industry that the global pandemic has accelerated due to the forced digitization of business and commerce.

The Montana Code School’s back-end program launches June 15. The front-end program begins July 22.
“We’re particularly excited that the new programs we are launching are being offered online, enabling Montanans from anywhere in the state to gain the skills necessary to embark on rewarding new tech careers,” said Paul Gladen, a co-founder of the Montana Code School and director of UM’s Accelerate Montana.

Upon successful completion of the course, students are equipped with the necessary skills to apply for a variety of entry-level roles within the industry. The national average base salary is $62,000. Previous graduates of the courses have landed jobs as Java developers, software engineers, back-end developers, application developers and front-end developers.

Gladen said a panel of industry professionals has reviewed and confidently approved that the curriculum, which teaches the technologies and methodologies that are looked for by hiring managers within the industry.

“We’re very excited to be involved with the relaunch of Montana Code School,” said Nick Suwyn, president of Promineo Tech. “Bringing our experience in delivering online coding boot camps will only add to the amazing work this team already has accomplished in Montana. Additionally, we’re thrilled to expand Montana Code School’s reach to the edges of the state and beyond.”

Students have the opportunity to optimize the resources the programs offer throughout their time as a student – through to graduation and the transition into the job search and interviewing process. The schedule of the programs is flexible and can supplement a full-time workload. As part of their training, students dedicate 1.5 hours to live, personally tailored micro-lectures in their online classroom, and an additional 13 to 18 hours of self-paced learning each week.

“Missoula College is committed to providing career-focused, accessible education to Montana citizens,” MC Dean Tom Gallagher said. “Our collaboration with Montana Code School and Promineo Tech provides a new point of access for individuals seeking to pursue high-demand, high-wage jobs in the technology sector.”

He said the transition from in-person boot camps to being fully online was motivated by safety guidelines due to the pandemic, but it also offers increased accessibility and flexibility to achieve in-demand education. Learners statewide and nationwide can register for the coding boot camps and explore the opportunities that software development has to offer.

To learn more about attending or offering a coding boot camp, visit
“Code School really worked for me,” said Falen, who currently chooses to work in his hometown of Missoula. “I work for a marketing agency now, but the type of work I do is a direct result of having learned how to code.”

About Montana Code School: Launched in 2015 as a program of MonTEC, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization affiliated with UM, the Montana Code School’s mission is to grow the pipeline of technology talent in Montana. Montana Code School has trained nearly 200 individuals via full-time and part-time boot camps in Missoula and Bozeman, with most progressing into rewarding and challenging new career opportunities with tech companies across Montana.

About Promineo Tech: Promineo Tech is an education-as-a-service provider that partners with community colleges to offer coding boot camps and related technology training. Its mission is to make technology education affordable, accessible and low risk for everyone so that anyone has the opportunity to improve their lives through learning. They teach people the skills needed to enter and be successful in high-demand technology fields such as the software development industry. Learn more at PromineoTech.com.

Contact: Paul Gladen, director of UM Accelerate Montana and Blackstone LaunchPad, paul.gladen@umontana.edu.
UM Offers Coding Boot Camp to Learners Statewide
Two UM Alumna to Journey Abroad on Fulbright Scholarships

14 MAY 2021
MISSOULA – Two University of Montana graduate student alumna will head abroad on Fulbright Scholarships this fall to connect with local communities and glean knowledge not only relevant to their research, but deeply personal as well.

Beatrice Garrard, who graduated from UM this spring, will conduct research on Jewish migration in Lithuania for a historical novel she is writing. Aubrey Pongluelert, a 2020 graduate, will explore traditional agricultural knowledge and seed sovereignty in Thailand.

Considered the flagship international education exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, Fulbright Scholarships promote international goodwill by offering opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide. The prestigious scholarships cover round-trip flights and room and board for the year abroad.

From Edmonds, Washington, Garrard earned her bachelor’s degree in history from Stanford in 2016 and her Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from UM this past semester.

A Jewish-American, Garrard previously traveled to Lithuania as a Yiddish language student. For her Fulbright she will travel to Vilnius, the country’s capital, to research prewar Jewish migration. A large modern city interspersed with the architectural and living remnants of its status as one of the largest Jewish centers in Europe, its Old Town is a

UM creative writing alumna Beatrice Garrard is interested in Jewish migration in Lithuania, and she will conduct background research and interviews in the country for her historical novel with her Fulbright Scholarship.
UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Garrard’s project, titled “Those Left Behind: Memory and Migration in Prewar Lithuania,” will draw on Yiddish archives and oral histories from the country’s Judaica Research Center, as well as interviews with local experts.

“The wealth of knowledge available in Vilnius will allow me to fulfill a longtime goal – to finish a novel that, in examining the past, illuminates the present,” Garrard said.

The project will focus on a perspective not usually highlighted in current migration narratives – women, children and communities left behind from migrants – and exchanges between Jewish and Christian Lithuanians.

Pandemic allowing, Garrard also hopes to hold a reading circle for locals based around Yiddish folktales and a formal public reading of her novel when complete to welcome input.

Garrard has a wealth of writing and teaching experience, having served as an editor for UM’s CutBank Literary Magazine, an educational outreach teacher for the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle and as a teacher at the Palo Alto School for Jewish Education.

The recipient of numerous writing prizes, she completed a novel draft and M.F.A. thesis about Russian-Jewish immigrants in Detroit in the 1920s.

“Pursuing my M.F.A. at UM gave me a chance to connect with incredible peers and mentors,” Garrard said. “The M.F.A. was my first real opportunity to live and breathe writing and literature full-time. I'm especially thankful for my cohort, who inundated me with great ideas, advice, friendship and a list of reading recommendations I'll be chewing through for years to come.”

After publishing her ongoing novel, Garrard hopes to teach writing in a high school or community college, focusing on social justice.

“In college, I co-directed Project WRITE, an outreach program that brought free creative writing classes to underserved, mostly BIPOC high school students,” she said. “These are the voices and stories we need most as we strive for a more diverse and equitable future. I want to empower young people by encouraging self-expression and bringing underrepresented writers
Two UM Alumna to Journey Abroad on Fulbright Scholarships

Aubrey Pongluelert, a graduate of UM's environmental studies program, will dig into traditional agricultural knowledge in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and talk to farmers throughout the country for her Fulbright Scholarship.

Pongluelert, from **Fresno, California**, earned a degree in environmental studies and studio art from Oberlin College and a Master of Science in environmental studies from UM in 2020. She is originally from Thailand.

For her Fulbright, Pongluelert will travel to Chiang Mai, a city in mountainous northern Thailand, where she will study traditional agricultural practices at a cooperative organic farm and community center in the north part of the country.

Pongluelert's passion for sustainable farming sprouted from her childhood background eating home-grown Thai meals with fresh produce nightly. She draws parallels with growing her own food to creating block printing and paintings in an art studio.

Through involvement with the International Rescue Committee’s New Roots program and Missoula’s Garden City Harvest, she has helped connect refugees with their own growing spaces and is an organizer of the Missoula Food Share Project, a local food mutual aid program.

Pongluelert first became interested in environmental justice issues in UM’s environmental studies program.

“The program’s emphasis on food justice and community deepened my interests in farming’s ability to connect people to place, food’s role in building cultural identity, the importance of traditional agricultural knowledge and the significance of creative languages in sharing this knowledge,” she said.
She said many traditional cultures share agricultural knowledge through artistic mediums such as song, dance and ceremony.

“Art and agriculture share a really vital space in human history,” she said.

For her UM master’s thesis, Pongluelert interviewed 10 women farmer-artists on connecting to land and heritage – a demographic, she said, that is not historically uplifted or recognized for their work. She then created an interpretive portrait of each person in multimedia tapestries incorporating embroidery, painting and sewing.

While abroad, she will learn about the seed bank program at the Pun Pun Center for Self Reliance, travel and talk to farmers and create a network for those who want to practice traditional seed savings. She also will share stories of female farmers through artwork.

Pongluelert said amplifying rural and traditional practices in agriculture may be key to conquering challenges and shifting conditions from climate change and corporate agriculture, developing resilient ecosystems and allowing farmers to adapt and feel empowered.

“Indigenous knowledge that revolves around growing food is what will probably save our food systems, aka our means of survival, since we all eat food,” she said. “That is the knowledge we should be listening to. That is the knowledge we should be celebrating and giving value to.”

Contact: Kylla Benes, UM director of prestigious scholarships, 406-243-5241, kylla.benes@umontana.edu.
Two UM Alumna to Journey Abroad on Fulbright Scholarships
MISSOULA – At the University of Montana, 2,550 undergraduate students made the spring semester 2021 Dean’s List or President’s 4.0 List. To qualify, students must be undergraduates, earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher and receive grades of A or B in at least nine credits. Students who receive any grade of C+ or below or no credit (NC/NCR) in a course are not eligible.

The students on the linked lists below made UM’s spring semester 2021 Dean’s List or the President’s 4.0 List. Double asterisks after a name indicate the student earned a 4.0 GPA. A single asterisk indicates a GPA greater than 3.5 but less than 4.0. This information is grouped by hometowns.

View the Dean’s List and President’s 4.0 List for Montana students.

View the Dean’s List and President’s 4.0 List for out-of-state students.

View a full alphabetical list of all students who made the Dean’s List and President’s 4.0 List.

All lists also are available on the UM Dean’s List and Degree Candidates webpage.

Note: The University is prohibited from publishing information about students who signed the Student Request to Restrict Release of Directory Information form through the Registrar’s Office. If students are not listed with a particular city or town, they should check other towns they may have listed as an address. If students are not listed and they believe they should be, email the Registrar’s Office at grading@umontana.edu.

Contact: UM Registrar’s Office, grading@umontana.edu.
UM Announces Spring Semester Dean’s List, 4.0 List
SpectrUM and SciNation Receive Impact Innovation Award

12 MAY 2021
MISSOULA – The University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area and SciNation, its advisory group on the Flathead Reservation, have received the 2021 Impact Innovation Award from Advancing Research Impact in Society.

ARIS is a center funded by the National Science Foundation. SpectrUM Director Jessie Herbert-Meny and members of SciNation accepted the award at a virtual ceremony on Tuesday, May 11.

The ARIS Awards recognize people and programs that demonstrate excellence in work that aligns with NSF’s goals for broader impacts (the societal impact of research). SpectrUM and SciNation’s award in the Impact Innovation category honors their collaborative, place-based
approach to developing and implementing culturally relevant science programming on the Flathead Reservation.

Since 2013, SciNation has partnered with spectrUM on an array of grant-funded initiatives, including an NSF-funded project that created the Kwul ’Itkin Maker Truck, a mobile cultural makerspace; a Science Learning Tent that pops up at the Arlee Celebration and the Standing Arrow Powwow in Elmo; Science Bytes that bring hands-on science to free summer meal sites; and a reservation-wide Science and Tech Challenge. SpectrUM and SciNation’s work currently is supported by Montana NSF EPSCoR, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Cognizant and GSK.

As part of the nomination, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Chairwoman Shelly Fyant wrote on behalf of the CSKT Tribal Council: “SpectrUM and SciNation’s collaboration has inspired our community to engage in science in all aspects of their life, both in and out of school, and to be curious about science and the world around them.”

UM Broader Impacts Group Director Nathalie Wolfram, who nominated the spectrUM-SciNation partnership for the award, said, “Their collaboration embodies what the broader impacts of research are all about: promoting a sense of belonging for all in STEM and higher education; building trusting, reciprocal partnerships between the University and tribal communities; and putting research to work for the benefit of the public.”

SciNation’s members include Stephanie Gillin and Whisper Camel-Means (CSKT Natural Resources), Dr. LeeAnna Muzquiz (CSKT Health and University of Washington School of Medicine), Michelle Mitchell (CSKT Education), Cindi Laukes (UM Neural Injury Center), Dr. Wren Walker Robbins (Salish Kootenai College) and Aric Cooksley and Amy Vaughan (Boys and Girls Club of the Flathead Reservation and Lake County).

Inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, spectrUM Discovery Area is UM’s hands-on science center based at the newly opened Missoula Public Library. Since 2006, spectrUM has brought exhibits and educators to 73 schools and public libraries in 32 Montana counties, including all seven of the state’s Indian reservations. SpectrUM is part of UM’s Broader Impacts Group, which works to engage the public, including K-12 students, with UM research and scholarship.

For more information, call spectrUM Director Jessie Herbert-Meny at 406-243-4828 or visit https://spectrum.umt.edu/.
SpectrUM and SciNation Receive Impact Innovation Award

Contact: Jessie Herbert-Meny, director, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.
UM Research Reveals Ancient People Had More Diverse Gut Microorganisms

12 MAY 2021
UM researcher Meradeth Snow holds a vial containing ancient human DNA.

Dr. Meradeth Snow is part of an international team that used human “paleofeces” to discover that ancient people had far different microorganisms living in their guts than we do in modern times.

MISSOULA – Only an anthropologist would treasure millennia-old human feces found in dry caves.

Just ask Dr. Meradeth Snow, a University of Montana researcher and co-chair of UM’s Department of Anthropology. She is part of an international team, led by the Harvard Medical School-affiliated Joslin Diabetes Center, that used human “paleofeces” to discover that ancient people had far different microorganisms living in their guts than we do in modern times.

Snow said studying the gut microbes found in the ancient fecal material may offer clues to combat diseases like diabetes that afflict people living in today’s industrialized societies.
“We need to have some specific microorganisms in the right ratios for our bodies to operate effectively,” Snow said. “It’s a symbiotic relationship. But when we study people today – anywhere on the planet – we know that their gut microbiomes have been influenced by our modern world, either through diet, chemicals, antibiotics or a host of other things. So understanding what the gut microbiome looked like before industrialization happened helps us understand what’s different in today’s guts.”

This new research was published May 12 in the prestigious journal Nature. The article is titled “Reconstruction of ancient microbial genomes from the human gut.” Snow and UM graduate student Tre Blohm are among the 28 authors of the piece, who hail from institutions around the globe.

Snow said the feces they studied came from dry caves in Utah and northern Mexico. So what does the 1,000-year-old human excrement look like?

“The caves these paleofeces came from are known for their amazing preservation,” she said. “Things that would normally degrade over time look almost brand new. So the paleofeces looked like, well, feces that are very dried out.”

Snow and Blohm worked hands-on with the precious specimens, suiting up in a clean-room laboratory at UM to avoid contamination from the environment or any other microorganisms – not an easy task when the tiny creatures are literally in and on everything. They would carefully collect a small portion that allowed them to separate out the DNA from the rest of the material. Blohm then used the sequenced DNA to confirm the paleofeces came from ancient people.

The senior author of the Nature paper is Aleksandar Kostic of the Joslin Diabetes Center. In previous studies of children living in Finland and Russia, he and his partners revealed that kids living in industrialized areas – who are much more likely to develop Type 1 diabetes than those in non-industrialized areas – have very different gut microbiomes.

“We were able to identify specific microbes and microbial products that we believe hampered a proper immune education in early life,” Kostic said. “And this leads later on to higher incidents of not just Type 1 diabetes, but other autoimmune and allergic diseases.”

Kostic wanted to find a healthy human microbiome without the effects of modern industrialization, but he became convinced that couldn’t happen with any modern living people,
pointing out that even tribes in the remote Amazon are contracting COVID-19.

So that’s when the researchers turned to samples collected from arid environments in the North American Southwest. The DNA from eight well-preserved ancient gut samples were compared with the DNA of 789 modern samples. Half the modern samples came from people eating diets where most food comes from grocery stores, and the remainder came from people consuming non-industrialized foods mostly grown in their own communities.

The differences between microbiome populations were striking. For instance, a bacterium known as Treponema succinifaciens wasn’t in a single “industrialized” population’s microbiome the team analyzed, but it was in every single one of the eight ancient microbiomes. But researchers found the ancient microbiomes did match up more closely with modern non-industrialized population’s microbiomes.

The scientists found that almost 40% of the ancient microbial species had never been seen before. Kostic speculated on what caused the high genetic variability:

“In ancient cultures, the foods you’re eating are very diverse and can support a more eclectic collection of microbes,” Kostic said. “But as you move toward industrialization and more of a grocery-store diet, you lose a lot of nutrients that help to support a more diverse microbiome.”

Moreover, the ancient microbial populations incorporated fewer genes related to antibiotic resistance. The ancient samples also featured lower numbers of genes that produce proteins that degrade the intestinal mucus layer, which then can produce inflammation that is linked with various diseases.

Snow and several coauthors and museum collection managers also led a project to ensure the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in the research.

“This was a really vital part of the work that had to accompany this kind of research,” she said. “Initially, we sent out multiple letters and emails and called the tribal historic preservation officers of all the recognized tribes in the Southwest region. Then we met with anyone who was interested, doing short presentations and answering questions and following up with interested parties.

“The feedback we received was noteworthy, in that we needed to keep in mind that these paleofeces have to ties their ancestors, and we needed to be – and hopefully have been – as
respectful as possible about them,” she said. “There is a long history of misuse of genetic data from Indigenous communities, and we strove to be mindful of this by meeting and speaking with as many people as possible to obtain their insights and perspectives. We hope that this will set a precedent for us as scientists and others working with genetic material from Indigenous communities past and present.”

Snow said the research overall revealed some fascinating things.

“The biggest finding is that the gut microbiome in the past was far more diverse than today – and this loss of diversity is something we are seeing in humans around the world,” she said. “It’s really important that we learn more about these little microorganisms and what they do for us in our symbiotic relationships.

“In the end, it could make us all healthier.”

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UM Research Reveals Ancient People Had More Diverse Gut Microorganisms
UM Adds Two Undergrads to Long List of Udall Scholars

11 MAY 2021
UM Add Two Undergrads to Long List of Udall Scholars

UM undergraduates Alexios Smith (left), a sophomore in forestry, and Raina Woolworth, a junior studying environmental science and sustainability, were named 2021 Udall Scholars.

MISSOULA – The University of Montana, long a top producer of Udall Scholars, has added two more students to its list of undergraduates receiving this prestigious recognition.

Alexios Smith, a sophomore in forestry, and Raina Woolworth, a junior studying environmental science and sustainability, joined 53 other undergraduates from 41 colleges and universities nationwide named 2021 Udall Scholars. The Udall Foundation awards these scholarships to college sophomores and juniors for their leadership, public service and commitment to issues related to Native American nations or the environment.

“UM’s deep history in producing Udall scholars speaks to the academic rigor of our programs and the engagement and passion of our students – especially those studying the environment,” said Kylla Benes, UM’s director of prestigious scholarships.

As Udall Scholars, Smith and Woolworth will receive $7,000 toward academic expenses, have access to the Udall Alumni Network and travel to Tucson in August for an orientation to network and learn new skills.

Smith plans to be a conservation forester in her home state of Hawaii, working to ensure the island’s native forests are protected for the enjoyment of current and future generations. To achieve these goals, she wants to become a researcher focused on the impact of human activity on native plant ecosystems.

“As a Native Hawaiian, it hurts my soul to witness the depletion of native plant populations. I firmly believe these ecosystems are a vital part of our community, and it’s through them that life is created and sustained,” said Smith, who in addition to working toward a bachelor’s degree in forestry is minoring in ecological restoration. “In my lifetime I plan to see indigenous flora repopulate the forests of my home and I am determined to be a driving force behind this. I plan to educate local communities about these issues and work to implement the protection of native plants.”

Woolworth, who hails from Oxford, Mississippi, aspires to be an engineer in the development
of carbon capture and storage solutions to combat global warming. Success, she said, will require using her interdisciplinary background of environmental sustainability, global collaboration and racial justice.

“I want a holistic sustainability mindset to form the backbone of my work,” said Woolworth, who also is minoring in climate change studies, African American Studies and Spanish. “Climate change is a complex problem that will require interdisciplinary solutions. To successfully address one issue, we must address them all.”

In addition to their academic studies, Smith and Woolworth have been active in campus programs. Woolworth was a founder of UM’s Climate Response Club and is involved in UM’s Franke Global Leadership Initiative, Quest – a Davidson Honors College student research program – and Emmaus Campus Ministry. Smith has participated in the campus Forestry Club, is a member of the Society of American Foresters and serves as vice president of UM’s Pacific Islanders Club.

The Udall Scholarship honors the legacies of Morris Udall and Stewart Udall, whose careers had a significant impact on Native American self-governance, health care and the stewardship of public lands and natural resources. Since the program’s inception in 1996, the Udall Foundation has awarded 1,788 scholarships totaling over $9.1 million.

Joining Smith and Woolworth in receiving Udall recognition was junior Zoe Transtrum who received an honorable mention along with 54 other undergraduates across the country. A junior from Boise, Transtrum is studying environmental sciences and sustainability science and practice.

“The Office of Scholarships and Fellowships helps students across campus apply for major awards,” Benes said. “The application process itself can be pivotal in a student’s academic journey. We’re proud of all of our applicants, and it is an honor to see these students get recognized for their achievements.”

Contact: Kylla Benes, UM director of prestigious scholarships, 406-243-5241, kylla.benes@umontana.edu.
UM Adds Two Undergrads to Long List of Udall Scholars
'Backroads of Montana' Presents New Stories From Across Big Sky Country
MISSOULA – A new episode of the awarding-winning MontanaPBS series “Backroads of Montana” will premiere at 8 p.m. Monday, May 24.

“Family, friends and community are the themes of this program,” said host and Montana native William Marcus. “There’s something for every Montanan in this episode, which is titled ‘Eureka to Big Sandy.’”

Near the town of Big Sandy, “Backroads” heads to a ranch that still works on horseback. For five generations and counting, Tom and Rene Brown’s family has lived near the Bear Paw Mountains. During that time they have developed a special relationship with an unusual breed of horse.

Every Friday from Labor Day to Memorial Day, a group of Eureka women create and repair quilts to raise funds to maintain the Tobacco Valley Historical Village. Friendship and love of local history bring these ladies together one stitch at a time.

By 1913, the automobile was becoming very popular in Montana. As a result, old wagon roads needed to be widened and improved. Some of that construction was done by convicts from the Montana State Prison. Near Springdale, “Backroads” tours a few of those roads and sees evidence of their work – work so effective, it hasn’t been improved upon in over 100 years.

Montana’s hard-water fishing season brings dozens of families out to a frozen Smith Lake west of Kalispell for the Sunriser Lions’ family ice fishing derby. “Backroads” follows a Montana family from wake-up to weigh-in during the popular community event. From the biggest to smallest pike and perch, viewers will experience what gets the next generation of anglers hooked on the sport.

Marcus, the “Backroads of Montana” host, will take viewers on a tour of the historic Moss
Mansion in **Billings**, which celebrates the influential entrepreneurial accomplishments of P.B. Moss and his family.

The program will have repeat airings at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27, and 5 p.m. Saturday, May 29. Marcus, Gus Chambers, John Twiggs, Ray Ekness, Breanna McCabe and Anna Rau produce “Backroads of Montana” for MontanaPBS through the University of Montana Broadcast Media Center.

“Backroads” is made possible with support from the Greater Montana Foundation, a Big Sky Film Grant and UM. The program has received multiple awards, including being named the Montana Broadcasters Association noncommercial television program of the year numerous times.

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

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**Contact:** William Marcus, “Backroads of Montana” host, william.marcus@umontana.edu.
'Backroads of Montana' Presents New Stories From Across Big Sky Country
UM Ranked No. 7 Nationally for Assisting Students With Autism

10 MAY 2021
MISSOULA – Outside of her studies, Mary Fahlman spent much of her time at the University of Montana helping students with autism navigate college life. She is part of the reason UM recently was ranked No. 7 in the nation by Best Value Schools for assisting students with autism.

“It’s our job as students to incorporate inclusion and kindness into our everyday lives,” said Fahlman, a senior who will start UM’s graduate program in speech therapy next fall. “Working with my fellow students has been really fun and has inspired me professionally.”

She assists with an organization called Mentoring, Organization and Social Support for Autism/All Inclusion on Campus (MOSSAIC), which was designed to support those who need just a bit more help.

“MOSSAIC helped me understand that there is more to an individual than what meets the eye,” she said. “Working as a mentor, I learned that differences should be celebrated, and uniqueness is beautiful.”

Jennifer Schoffer Closson directs MOSSAIC, which is housed in UM’s School of Speech, Language, Hearing and Occupational Sciences. She said students in the program are assisted with executive functioning, written language, social skills and inclusion. Through a multitiered system of support, most MOSSAIC participants receive direct speech-language therapy services, participate in peer mentoring and attend Tuesday evening meetings for social support.

“The individuals participating in MOSSAIC – both mentee and mentors – are creative
individuals who each offer their own uniqueness to make MOSSAIC a beautiful intricate artwork,” Closson said.

She said UM is known for being an inclusive and diverse campus. All people are welcome, including those who experience neuro-diversity.

“UM supports people with diverse abilities through Disability Services for Students,” Closson said. “Conferences such as DiverseU and organizations like the Branch Center ensure that everyone belongs. Beyond this, students with autism and related disorders benefit from programs like MOSSAIC.”

For those interested in participating in the MOSSAIC program or becoming a peer mentor, email jennifer.closson@mso.umt.edu.

Best Value Schools is an organization that helps people find the best education for their careers. It uses detailed, evidence-based methodologies to independently rank schools and programs across the country – from four-year undergraduate degrees on a traditional campus to online programs for mid-career professionals of any age.

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**Contact:** Jennifer Schoffer Closson, director of UM’s MOSSAIC program, jennifer.closson@mso.umt.edu.
UM Ranked No. 7 Nationally for Assisting Students With Autism
UM Law School Keeps Family Life Central

Jonathon Byington, Alexander Blewett III School of Law associate dean and professor, sits with UM law student Daniel.
UM Law School Keeps Family Life Central

Horton and his son. The law school has created a family friendly atmosphere that allows law students to better balance the demands young families with academic pressure. Horton, who is married and a father of three, will graduate with his juris doctorate degree on Saturday.

MISSOULA – Daniel Horton still remembers the shock he felt when law professors invited students to bring their kids to class during his first semester at the University of Montana’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law.

As one of many law students with children, Horton said the announcement came as a relief, creating a welcoming environment for the school’s student parents who balance the overwhelming nature of managing academic and caregiving responsibilities.

“Professors took the time to welcome the child, and it was very sincere,” Horton said. “You could see a nostalgic look on the professor’s faces, taking them back to when they were in that very same seat, and now they’re in a position to create an environment for parent students to bring their child and still learn.”

The average age UM’s incoming law class is 27 and many current students either have young children or are starting families.

Sally Weaver, director of Academic Success and associate dean of students at UM’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law, said faculty in the school are especially attuned to the added challenges that come with being a parent and a law student. Weaver was a mother studying law and likes to joke that her daughter “went through law school with her.”

“I’m particularly aware of the challenges and how difficult it is and how courageous our students are,” Weaver said.

Allowing students to bring their kids to class if child care falls through, or when schools are closed, is one of several informal ways the law school fosters a supportive environment for parents. The school also has private study and lactation rooms for nursing mothers – complete with refrigerators and changing tables.

Students have created their own integral support networks, too, including a group called Parents, Allies and Caregivers, which provides caregiving and mentoring to law students with...
families.

Erin McGarvey, a graduating law student, had the idea to start the group as a first-year law student after noticing there were a lot of other parents and caregivers at the law school. New to Missoula, McGarvey initially was looking for play dates for her 1-year-old and 3-year-old. But what she found was parents also need to build connections with each other to succeed in the stressful world of law school.

“It’s hard to be a parent at the same time,” McGarvey said. “The challenges are really different than they are for a student right out of undergrad.”

McGarvey and Horton teamed up with another student group called the Mindfulness In Law Society to formalize the Parents, Allies and Caregivers group and open it up to other students who wanted to provide babysitting. The group created a babysitter database, held meetings and identified some ways the law school could better support parents.

The group has advocated successfully for changes to lessen obstacles for parents. When early start times for classes conflicted with drop-off times for school and childcare the Parents, Allies and Caregivers group wrote a proposal to push back the start time of many classes.

“There was an opportunity for us to advocate for ourselves in that next semester, and we did see the start of some classes pushed back,” Horton said.

“There’s a saying that if you want something done, ask a busy person,” said Dean Paul Kirgis. “These students have taken precious time from their studies and their families to help us learn how to support them better. And as the pandemic has shown, it has never been more important for our society to support these folks who support so many others.”

McGarvey and Horton are graduating in May, but the Parents, Allies and Caregivers group will continue to be run by current law students. The group plans to continue advocating for changes to better support parent students, such as more lenient attendance policies.

“The goal is to keep that advocacy going next year,” McGarvey said. “I'm excited to see where that group goes moving forward.”

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By Cameron Evans for the UM News Service

Contact: Andi Armstrong, director of marketing and communications, Alexander Blewitt III School of Law, 4065-243-6509, andrea.armstrong@umontana.edu.
Donor Support Propels UM Music Building Renovations

06 MAY 2021
The first phase of extensive renovations to the UM Music Building began May 3.

MISSOULA – Three families, including University of Montana alumni and longtime supporters, have donated $3 million to fund the first phase of extensive renovations to the UM Music Building that began May 3. The building is home to the School of Music, part of the College of the Arts and Media, which serves hundreds of students and thousands of community members each year.

The phase one upgrades to the building, constructed in 1953, will transform the facility’s two largest ensemble rehearsal rooms, as well as a portion of a basement-level suite of practice rooms. The work is expected to finish before students return in the fall.

Reconstruction of the largest rehearsal room will improve accessibility, lighting and acoustic design to make the much-used space more functional and aesthetically inviting. It also will improve ventilation for band, orchestra, percussion ensembles and composition students.

The choir rehearsal room will receive similar upgrades, with the addition of portable riser systems to increase the room’s versatility and accommodate general teaching, vocal juries and various layouts for different choral ensembles, including musical theatre training and community choir rehearsals. The floor level also will be raised to allow universal access.

The renovations will elevate the Music Building to align with the quality of academic and performing arts programs that draw undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members to UM. The facilities host statewide competitions, festivals and music camps held at UM for nearly 2,000 junior high and high school students each year. The reconstruction also will help the School of Music accommodate the many professional community musicians who use the facility throughout the year, including the Missoula Symphony, the String Orchestra of the Rockies and the Montana State Music Teachers Association.

“Our Music Building serves as the front entrance to the University for so many in our community,” said College of the Arts and Media Dean Laurie Baefsky. “The long-anticipated renovation of the Music Building will not only benefit all music-loving Montanans but will reflect the nationally acclaimed programs and faculty within our renowned UM School of Music.”
The updates will support the school’s mission to prepare students for wide-ranging careers in music industries – from traditional and contemporary performance and music education, to commercial music, recording arts and arts administration. Updating these two large rehearsal venues to meet professional and academic standards will provide a safe and inspiring working space for students, and will help maintain the school’s accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music in 2022, which indicates that a school is preparing students for a professional future and meets specialized service and operational standards, among other quality assurance distinctions.

The School of Music serves the state of Montana as a hub for music education, with its Music Education Program boasting a 100% graduate job placement rate. Many of these alumni go on to serve and teach in rural Montana communities, providing K-12 vocal and instrumental music instruction statewide.

School of Music Director James Randall explained that the renovations will have a far-reaching impact beyond the UM academic experience.

“Our graduates serve as K-12 educators, directors of community music groups and performers in venues throughout Montana,” Randall said. “Fresh spaces with state-of-the-art technology will allow us to continue this important service to our community and the state for years to come.”

During the 67th Montana legislative session that concluded in April, lawmakers provided UM with authority to procure outside financial resources to support future renovations to the Music Building. A fundraising committee chaired by Don McCammon, an alumnus and College of the Arts and Media Advisory Council member, will lead efforts to inspire the needed private support for future phases of the building upgrades.

Future donor investment will ensure subsequent renovation work, including updating classrooms with integrated audio/video systems, flexible furnishings that support individual or collaborative work, new lighting fixtures and windows, and increased sound isolation between floor levels. Additional upgrades to 20 student practice rooms will improve soundproofing, safety and accessibility.

Upgrades to the UM School of Music’s Recital Hall will be addressed in future renovation phases to improve overall hall acoustics, make performance operations easier and enhance accessibility while maintaining its historic character. This performance venue also is used
extensively by UM music students and professional faculty, as well as by regional ensembles – often in tandem with the two large rehearsal rooms. In the Recital Hall, new audio and video systems will be installed, as well as new performance lighting equipment to support live performances, lectures, presentations, teaching, and amplified and recorded music. The lobby will be expanded and receive aesthetic enhancements.

Such improvements will be transformative for anyone who uses the many dynamic spaces in the building, especially students, said Noah Durnell, a senior music performance student from Great Falls who has advocated for improvements to the building.

“For many students, the Music Building is more than an academic facility. It's a second home,” said Durnell, who also is president of the Student Music Union and incoming president of the Associated Students of UM. “If donors get behind this project, they’re not just funding renovations; they’re supporting students, creating a more conducive learning environment and helping foster a more vibrant, inclusive campus culture.”

To make a gift to the UM Foundation in support of the School of Music or learn about naming opportunities within the Music Building, email Cate Sundeen, director of development at the College of the Arts and Media, at cate.sundeen@supportum.org or call 406-214-6270.

The UM Foundation is an independent nonprofit organization that has inspired philanthropic support to enhance excellence and opportunity at UM since 1950.

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**Contact:** Elizabeth Willy, director of communications, UM Foundation, elizabeth.willy@supportum.org.
UM Scientist Joins Team Partnering with UN’s Initiative to Map Ungulate Migrations
UM Professor Mark Hebblewhite has joined an international team of 92 scientists and conservationists to create the first-ever global atlas of ungulate (hoofed mammal) migrations. Here, elk migrate toward Banff National Park. (Photo courtesy of Celie Interin)

MISSOULA – University of Montana Professor Mark Hebblewhite has joined an international team of 92 scientists and conservationists to create the first-ever global atlas of ungulate (hoofed mammal) migrations.

Working in partnership with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, a U.N. treaty, the Global Initiative on Ungulate Migration (GIUM) launches May 7 with the publication of a commentary in Science titled “Mapping out a future for ungulate migrations.”

The atlas provides detailed maps of the seasonal movements of herds worldwide. The maps will help stakeholders like governments, Indigenous peoples, communities, planners and wildlife managers identify current and future threats to migrations and create conservation measures to sustain them.

“A global migration atlas is urgently needed because there has never been a worldwide inventory of these phenomenal seasonal movements,” said lead author Matthew Kauffman, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Wyoming and a former UM post-doctorate researcher. “As landscapes become more difficult to traverse, the maps can help conservationists pinpoint threats, identify stakeholders and work together to find solutions.”

Migratory ungulates include species like Mongolian gazelles and
saiga in Asia, wildebeest in the African Serengeti, guanacos in South America, red deer in Europe and many more. More familiar North American species include pronghorn, elk, mule deer and caribou.

Around the globe, these species undertake arduous seasonal journeys to find food, escape harsh conditions and breed – each journey as unique as the individual species. Wherever they’re located, ungulates are an essential part of natural ecosystems. Migrations also contribute to local and regional economies through harvest and tourism, and they are woven into the culture of numerous communities.

But many ungulate migrations are declining or threatened because of human disturbances like roads, fences and other types of development.

Mongolian gazelle migrations, which can cover hundreds of kilometers, are sharply constrained by border fences and new railroads. Over the last few decades, researchers in Kenya's Kajiado County have witnessed the near collapse of the migrations of wildebeest, zebra and Thompson's gazelle due to unplanned roads, fences and other infrastructure. In other cases, migrations have been lost even before they have been documented.

“The same sort of problems that ungulates in Montana and North America face like fences, highways and expanding human development are playing out on a global scale in a huge way,”
said Hebblewhite, professor of ungulate ecology in UM’s Wildlife Biology Program. “We’re trying to raise awareness at a global level of the issues they face and also that we need new international guidance.”

The new global migration atlas will help decision-makers plan and implement infrastructure projects to mitigate or eliminate their barrier effects and will help decision-makers prioritize which areas along migration routes to conserve.

The effort builds on previous conservation successes made possible by migration mapping. Around the world, actions such as protected-area expansion, road-crossing structures and working-lands conservation initiatives have been catalyzed by tracking the actual migration routes of the herds. The scientists and conservationists involved in the initiative hope that detailed maps of migrations around the world will spark similar conservation actions to sustain wildlife migrations.

To coordinate this large effort, the international team partnered with the U.N. Secretariat of CMS to create the GIUM.

An environmental treaty of the U.N., CMS provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. This unique treaty brings countries and wildlife experts together to address the conservation needs of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species and their habitats around the world.

The new global initiative hosted by CMS will use the latest GPS tracking technology, mapping software and data-sharing platforms, combined with local and Indigenous knowledge. The team also will endeavor to map lost migrations and document local and historical knowledge of animal movements.

While the paper offers a global perspective, Hebblewhite said it’s relevant in Montana as a reminder of the importance of coordination of conservation across boundaries – including state, federal and private lands – and even internationally across the Canadian border.

“In some ways, Montana and Wyoming really are leading the world in how to conserve migratory ungulates,” Hebblewhite said. “Montana is already undertaking a lot of conservation work to understand the needs of their migratory ungulates. But even in places like the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem, there’s continued threats and continued risks to losing migrations to expanding human development.
This is a very globally relevant issue that we here in Montana have a lot to offer the rest of the world,” he said. “And that carries a lot of responsibility. It’s not just about preserving ungulates in Montana. If we do that here and lose them in the rest of the world, we’ve failed.”

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**Contact:** Mark Hebblewhite, UM professor of ungulate habitat ecology, W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6675, mark.hebblewhite@umontana.edu.
UM Scientist Joins Team Partnering with UN’s Initiative to Map Ungulate Migrations

UM Students Receive Bob and Sue Brown Scholarships for Ethics in Public Affairs

UM STUDENTS RECEIVE BOB AND SUE BROWN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ETHICS IN PUBLIC
MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center is pleased to announce that UM students Danara Greer and Marina McGourty have been awarded the Bob and Sue Brown Undergraduate Scholarship for Ethics in Public Affairs.

The center received $50,000 from anonymous donors to create an endowment in support of the Bob and Sue Brown Undergraduate Scholarship for Ethics in Public Affairs. In honor of the Browns, $2,000 is offered annually to an undergraduate author of a paper or creative project that relates to ethics in public affairs. Since the initial gift, another donor has come forward to support a runner-up award in the amount of $1,000 annually for the next 10 years.

“We were delighted to receive many outstanding examples of work on ethics and public affairs by UM undergraduates,” said Professor Robert Saldin, director of the center’s Ethics and Public Affairs Program. “As inaugural recipients, Danara and Marina set a high bar for the Brown Scholarship going forward. We’re especially proud that the Mansfield Center is the home for this scholarship in honor of Bob and Sue, who have both led exemplary lives committed to integrity in public service.”

Greer, a junior from Florence majoring in political science and sociology, won the $2,000 award. She was nominated by Professor Dane Scott for her paper on social media companies’ response to the
use of their platforms by QAnon groups.

“Each semester this course investigates the relationship between ethics, political philosophy and timely, contemporary policy issues, including the impacts of social media on American democracy,” Scott said. “It was clear after the first few weeks of the term that Danara is a special student and is authentically engaged in the course’s topic. In the many years I have taught this course, Danara stands out as the top one or two students.”

McGourty, a senior from Missoula studying elementary education, won the $1,000 prize. She was nominated by Associate Professor Matthew Schertz for her ethical analysis that focuses on a high school educator feeling pressure from conflicting loyalties.

"Marina is an incredibly mature and thoughtful student, the kind that a professor relies upon as a leader for the class,” Schertz said. “In her essay, Marina is able to analyze a dilemma from a variety of perspectives with grit and poise. It’s this kind of ethically-grounded work that makes her stand out as one of our star students in teacher education.”

Bob and Sue Brown have lifetimes of commitment to public service. Bob Brown served in the Montana Legislature for 26 years, was Montana Secretary of State, the Republican party’s nominee for governor in 2004, and has served on a number of history, education and community service boards. He taught history and government at the high school and college levels. Sue Brown taught at Flathead High School for 40 years where she initiated many programs to provide opportunities for students to become critical thinkers and compassionate, responsible citizens of the world community.

Created by an Act of Congress in 1983, the Mansfield Center fosters globally minded leaders of integrity through a dual mission dedicated to supporting ethical public policy and leadership.
UM Students Receive Bob and Sue Brown Scholarships for Ethics in Public Affairs

as well as mutual understanding between the U.S. and Asia. The center serves as an essential component of Montana’s economic and civic life by fostering dialogue on issues facing the U.S., Asia and the world. The Mansfield Ethics and Public Affairs Program supports the Mansfield mission by conducting research and educational activities that examine the role that ethics can and should play in public life and the issues of leadership and character in public service.

For more information on the Mansfield Ethics and Public Affairs Program, see www.umt.edu/mansfield or call 406-274-0992.

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UM Students Receive Bob and Sue Brown Scholarships for Ethics in Public Affairs
UM’s Mansfield Center Executive Director Receives Fulbright Award to Taiwan
MISSOULA – Deena Mansour, executive director of the University of Montana’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, has received a Fulbright U.S. International Education Administrator (IEA) award to Taiwan.

Mansour will use this prestigious award to create connections between Taiwan and UM and their societal, cultural and higher education systems. Although geographically separated by more than 6,000 miles, Taiwan and Montana share a surprising number of commonalities that could be explored as a result of this exchange, Mansour said.

“At a critical time in relations with Taiwan and China, my Fulbright award allows me to increase the treatment of Taiwan and East Asia more broadly at UM and throughout the state,” she said. “Participation in IEA will create multiple opportunities for our students to explore shared interests, including natural parks, ecotourism, mountains, Indigenous issues and environmental issues, in addition to critical issues of Cross-strait studies and culture.”

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to forge lasting connections between the people of the United States and other countries, counter misunderstandings and help people and nations work together toward common goals. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations and foundations around the world provide direct and indirect support to the program, which operates in more than 160 countries worldwide.

Mansour, who has worked in the field of international exchange since 1990 and at the Mansfield Center since 2009, was originally going to travel to Taiwan this spring, but because of the pandemic she will travel for two weeks in March 2022.
“This program is a cohort model where the group is hosted by a number of academic institutions in order to create empowering connections for the UM community,” Mansour said. “The experience will allow me to foster public diplomacy efforts with Indigenous communities, university-community connections and support efforts toward diversity and inclusion.”

The Mansfield Center is an academic unit at UM dedicated to enhancing mutual understanding between the United States and Asia and to fostering ethical public policy and leadership. The center supports this mission by fostering university and community links with Asia and dialogue on issues facing the United States, Asia and the world on matters of the economy, the environment, global development and international relations.

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UM’s Mansfield Center Executive Director Receives Fulbright Award to Taiwan
UM Alumna Awarded Another Rare Foreign Language Opportunity

04 MAY 2021
For the second year in a row, University of Montana alumna Courtney Bentz will experience full immersion in the Russian language on a Critical Language Scholarship.

Funded by the U.S. Department of State, Critical Language Scholarships are highly competitive, with 550 typically awarded out of around 5,500 applications. The scholarships are worth between $5,000 to $7,000, and recipients travel overseas to study one of 15 languages declared critical by the U.S. government.

“I’d always known I wanted to travel and work internationally with people from different cultures,” Bentz said.

Bentz, who is from Billings, fell in love with learning new languages when she studied French in high school. As a student at UM, she chose to study the language written on her family’s old immigration papers – Russian.

In 2018, Bentz went to Kyrgyzstan for 10 weeks on a $3,000 Gilman Scholarship to study Russian and Kyrgyz – her first time traveling internationally.

Ona Renner-Fahey, head of the UM Russian Program, said studying abroad is a rewarding way for students to experience language immersion and increase linguistic and cultural fluency.

“While any cultural experience abroad can push you out of your comfort zone, the experience is deepened even more when you are simultaneously navigating through it in a language that is not your native language,” Renner-Fahey said.

One of the biggest challenges for
Bentz was learning how to decline the Kyrgyz national drink without offending the hosts. Made with fermented sheep dairy and mare’s milk, the drink is offered in both restaurants and homes, sometimes in shot glasses. Unfortunately for Bentz, she is lactose intolerant, so she had to learn to communicate she couldn’t drink it – putting her language skills to the test.

“These national drinks are a big part of their huge culture of hospitality,” Bentz said. “It’s very important to the Kyrgyz. It’s a really phenomenal thing to participate in.”

Last year, Bentz earned a CLS for a program based out of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, over the summertime. Due to the pandemic, the program ran virtually.

This year, she earned a second Critical Language Scholarship – a very rare feat – for Vladimir, Russia, which also will be virtual.

Every Monday through Friday, the now-virtual CLS program consists of two hours of class, an hour-long meeting with the teacher once a week to go over grammar or culture and a presentation on special topics like dachas, or Russian summer cabins. Bentz said her favorite part is meeting with a language partner twice a week.
Keeping up on a language outside of school and a conversation partner has been difficult for Bentz, who graduated with her degree in Russian a year ago.

“Even though I’m kind of nervous about that, I’m also really excited to get to speak Russian and get back into it,” she said. “I really love the language.”

Bentz now works for the International Rescue Committee as an AmeriCorps member, helping build financial and digital literacy programs at credit unions for immigrants.

“I’m in the process of helping people further stabilize and also get that kind of inside knowledge of how American economics work that people who are born here get to know through their lives,” she said. “So it just kind of makes the learning curve a little less severe.”

Bentz plans to spend another year at AmeriCorps through July with the IRC and then go abroad when she can. She eventually wants to work for the federal government through the Foreign Service or the Office of Language Services, specializing in Russian.

Renner-Fahey, who met Bentz as a first-year student, said Bentz took advantage of many out-of-classroom activities UM offers.

“Courtney seemed to intentionally make the most of her college experience, through knowing what the Honors College and Global Leadership Initiative could offer her, through actively pursuing scholarships and other opportunities, and even through fostering close friendships through the Russian program and her sorority,” Renner-Fahey said.

She said the Russian program strives to create community among students and alumni and open up the world of possibilities that comes with learning a language.

“There are so many wonderful opportunities out there for students of Russian – from fully funded study abroad programs through the State Department, like the CLS, to exciting and unexpected study abroad locales such as the Russian Far East, Kyrgyzstan or Kazakhstan,” Renner-Fahey said. “We try to encourage students to apply for everything.”

Bentz said the most important lesson she has learned is one of perseverance and adaptability – especially as cultural immersion experiences look a bit different these days.
“If you really want something, keep trying for it and keep going forward as much as you can,” she said.

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**Contact:** Courtney Bentz, AmeriCorps VISTA member, bentz@mtcompact.org; Ona Renner-Fahey, associate professor and section head, UM Russian Program, ona.renner@mso.umt.edu.
Hilary Martens, assistant professor of geosciences at UM, recently received a $430,000 grant from NASA to conduct
MISSOULA – A University of Montana geosciences professor who studies the structure and evolution of the Earth has received a prestigious grant from NASA’s Earth Surface and Interior Division.

Hilary Martens, assistant professor in the Department of Geosciences, housed in UM’s College of Humanities and Sciences, recently was awarded a $443,000 three-year grant to investigate the structure of the Earth’s interior using GPS observations of ocean tides.

Martens will serve as the grant’s principal investigator, and the award includes funding to the California Institute of Technology as a collaborating institution, in addition to providing support for one full-time doctoral student at UM.

Martens will examine the relationship between the ocean tides and changes in the shape of the Earth. The project will use GPS to measure how the Earth flexes and deforms under the shifting weight of the ocean water, which will provide new knowledge on the materials that make up the layers of the Earth, according to Martens.

“Imagine pressing your finger into a Nerf ball or a bowling ball,” Martens said. “Objects respond differently to the same force because they are made of different stuff. The structure and rigidity of the Earth have implications for how the Earth deforms under pressure. By gaining insight into the elasticity and density structure of the Earth from studying its dynamic response to loading by ocean tides, we can improve our understanding of what drives plate tectonics and surface hazards, such as earthquakes and volcanoes.”

Using GPS, the project will measure the response of the Earth’s crust and mantle to the weight of ocean tides, from which material properties of the Earth can be inferred.

Martens said GPS is able to monitor the changing shape of the Earth over time. That information can be used as a model to predict future changes, as well as to develop hypotheses about the Earth’s physical evolution.

“Water and air move around on Earth’s surface and the pressure changes cause the Earth to respond,” Martens said. “The Earth is not perfectly rigid. It flexes under the weight of the water.
moving around on the surface, so it’s constantly changing. We can learn about the material properties of the Earth’s interior, which control how deformable the Earth is.”

Martens said a better understanding of the structural model of the Earth can be used to improve the precision of locating earthquakes, in addition to having a deeper understanding of the Earth’s history and the stability of continents. She said her research as a geoscientist includes a variety of scientific disciplines and methods, including data collection and analysis, analytical and numerical modeling, and ground and space-based observations.

Martens’ research also provides a wider lens on water storage on the planet – including snowpack, groundwater, and water in lakes, soils, and the atmosphere – which is especially important for water resource management in a warming climate. Last year, Martens received $1.4 million in funding from the National Science Foundation as part of a multi-disciplinary team to track changes in the shape of the Earth from the storage and flow of water in mountain watersheds.

At UM, Martens manages the Martens Lab, a geophysics research group that studies earthquakes in Montana and the interactions between the Earth and its water surface, or fluid envelopes. Martens possesses a robust background in space science, planetary science and geophysics. She founded a seismic network for UM that engages students in local science and hazard monitoring, including measuring the aftershocks of Montana earthquakes.

Martens received undergraduate degrees in music and physics from UM as a Presidential Leadership Scholar in UM’s Davidson Honors College. As a UM undergraduate, she also earned Marshall and Goldwater Scholarships.

She received master’s degrees in geophysics from the University of Cambridge, University College London and the California Institute of Technology. She earned her doctorate in geophysics from the California Institute of Technology.

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UM Professor Awarded $430,000 NASA Grant
Award-Winning UM Journalism School Offers Free Summer Camp

03 MAY 2021
MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Journalism will host a free three-day summer camp July 18-21 for high school students to explore and build media and journalism skills.

Students will stay on the scenic UM campus, learn from journalism faculty members, make connections with media professionals, explore the role of journalism in society and get hands-on experience in writing, reporting, photography, graphic design, social media and more.

Tuition, room and board are free for all accepted students thanks to UM’s Top-10 Hearst Award-winning School of Journalism, as well as Humanities Montana and support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The camp is geared toward students who will be in grades nine to 12, but incoming first-year college students are encouraged to apply as well. Applicants only are asked to pay a $25 application fee.

“Teaching the next generation the value of trustworthy information and how it can be carefully and ethically produced and delivered across all media is crucial to the future of our society, our communities and our democracy,” said School of Journalism Director Denise Dowling. “We need more students ready to seek truth, tell meaningful stories, witness history and hold the powerful accountable, and we're so proud to be the training ground in Montana for journalists who want to do all of that.”

Students should plan to arrive on campus the afternoon of Sunday, July 18, to be get settled into the residence halls and ready to participate in full-day workshops Monday and Tuesday. By Wednesday morning, students will put the finishing touches on their journalism projects and get ready to depart back to their communities, where they will continue to work with School of Journalism partners in covering their home communities.
“High school students lend such a valuable perspective, especially when it comes to exploring the media’s role in our everyday lives,” said instructor Courtney Lowery Cowgill. “Helping them use all these new technological tools they have to tell stories that really matter to them, their communities and their world is always exciting and instructive. We cannot wait to see what these students find and produce.”

For more information and to register, visit http://bit.ly/UMjournalismcamp.

The camp is made possible by the generous support of Humanities Montana, a nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For 49 years, Humanities Montana has helped strengthen communities through grants and special programs that help humanities reach into every corner of Montana.

“We see the connections between democracy, the humanities and journalism as vital to an informed citizenry,” said Samantha Dwyer, program officer at Humanities Montana. “We partnered with the UM School of Journalism on this summer camp to help make award-winning faculty and media experts accessible to high school students across the region. We are committed to removing barriers to civic engagement, including supporting teens who invest their time and passion in media literacy and journalism.”

Housed in the College of the Arts and Media, UM’s School of Journalism is one of the oldest accredited journalism schools in the country. The program strives to help students think critically about the communities they live in through hands-on training – and find and tell stories that shed light on important topics. Students learn by doing while reporting at home and across the globe.

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Award-Winning UM Journalism School Offers Free Summer Camp