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UM GRADUATE PROGRAM AWARDED $500K FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

30 NOVEMBER 2021
Breanna McCabe, a UM graduate student in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism, films footage in the Canadian Rockies for her Crown Reporting Project while working on a documentary about efforts to save whitebark pine, an alpine tree threatened by climate change and disease. McCabe’s mentor was Chris Johns, former editor-in-chief for National Geographic.

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Journalism has received a $500,000 grant to support UM’s graduate program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism.

The 2021 Journalism Impact Grant comes from a donor-advised fund at the Orange County Community Foundation in Orange County, Calif., and bolsters the journalism school’s signature Crown Reporting Fellowship. The grant also provides scholarship and recruiting support aimed at extending the reach and reputation of the School of Journalism’s growing graduate program.

“This fabulous gift recognizes the strength of UM’s interdisciplinary approach to training the professional journalists and science communicators of tomorrow,” said Nadia White, director of the graduate program and a journalism associate professor.

Since its inception in 2010, the UM master’s program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism has trained journalists to report on and contribute to civil discourse focused on human impacts on the natural world and nature’s impacts on human communities. Graduates are working at newspapers, online news sites and public radio newsrooms across the country, as well as serving as science communicators in numerous universities and colleges.

The best of that work has been supported by the Crown Reporting Fellowship. Started in 2015 by Roger and Libby Smith to honor the memory of conservationist Ted Smith, the Crown Reporting Fellowship is a story-pitch competition coupled with mentorship and a networking event.

Each year, students with winning environmental story ideas are matched with mentors who shepherd the stories to completion and publication. Mentors have come from The New York Times, National Public Radio, National Geographic and a variety of top-flight environmental publications and broadcast outlets.

Crown Reporting Fellowship projects have aired on or appeared in National Public Radio’s
UM Graduate Program Awarded $500K for Environmental Journalism


The Journalism Impact Grant also will be used to:

- Provide scholarships to incoming and current graduate students.
- Prepare journalists to cover news occurring in extreme situations.

With this grant, the School of Journalism will become a training ground for journalists and students who cover climate change, destructive weather events, human migration, environmental disruption and armed conflicts over limited natural resources.

“We look on this grant as a vote of confidence in Nadia White’s dedication and vision for our graduate program,” said Denise Dowling, director of the School of Journalism and a journalism professor. “We’re grateful for the ability to continue our already-successful Crown Fellowship, which brings top-notch grad students to UM. I’m particularly excited the grant will allow us to expand the curriculum to prepare student reporters and professionals covering extreme situations.”

The journalism graduate program focuses on environment and science reporting. It is expanding to include an environmental public health reporting track. It also offers forward-thinking undergraduate journalism majors the opportunity to earn their master’s degree in just one additional year through the school's 4+1 master’s degree opportunity.

To make a gift to the UM Foundation in support of the School of Journalism, visit www.jour.umt.edu/alumni/giving.php or contact Beth Cogswell, director of development at the School of Journalism, at beth.cogswell@supportum.org or call 406-360-2696.

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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UM Graduate Program Awarded $500K for Environmental Journalism

**Contact:** Denise Dowling, director, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-5250, denise.dowling@umontana.edu; Nadia White, director, UM Master’s Program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism, 406-529-9839, nadia.white@umontana.edu.

“This ranking reflects the hard work of faculty, staff, alumni and students of the College of Business,” Dean Suzanne Tilleman said. “We are pleased and proud to once again earn recognition as having one of the premier business programs in the region. The College of Business has a distinct focus of nurturing students’ innate work ethic by giving them transformative learning experiences to help them achieve a better life.”

The Big Sky Conference comprises 12 universities in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, California and Utah. The UM College of Business came in 166th in the nation, 78 spots ahead of other business schools in Montana. UM tied atop the Big Sky Conference with the College of Business and Economics at the University of Idaho.

UM’s College of Business focuses on applied, experiential education that encourages students to participate in hands-on business projects. Over 80% of business students participate in at least one internship prior to graduation.

Because of its reputation for academic and research excellence, UM attracts the interest of international and national business experts. Over 100 business professionals come to the Gallagher Business Building each year to share their knowledge through formal lectures and speaking engagements, and talking with and recruiting students for part-time and full-time jobs.

Faculty dedication to teaching and research provides inspiration and support both inside and outside the classroom, helping students individually realize their potential. Student test scores and strong alumni relationships are testimony to the fact students thrive while attending the College of Business.

The College of Business offers six undergraduate majors in accounting, finance, international business, business management, management information systems and marketing. At the graduate level, it offers the only separately accredited Master of Accountancy in Montana and the first Master of Science in Business Analytics in the Pacific Northwest to go along with the Montana Master of Business Administration. All three graduate programs can be completed online or in the classroom.

Overall, U.S. News and World Report ranked UM 277th among all public and private universities nationally. The complete rankings are available online.
Contact: Garrett Finke, College of Business director of marketing and communications, 406-243-4436, garrett.finke@umontana.edu.
At the groundbreaking ceremony for UM's new power facility were (left to right) Paul Trumbley, associate director of engineering and utilities; Jeff Davis of McKinstry; UM President Seth Bodnar; Paul Lasiter, vice president, UM Operations and Finance; and Neil Maier, chief heating plant engineer. The new facility will reduce emissions by 30% and save millions
MISSOULA – With snow already dusting nearby Mount Sentinel, the University of Montana began construction this week on a new combined heat and power (CHP) facility that will provide electricity and steam to its buildings.

The new CHP will also save UM $1.5 to $2 million annually in reduced energy expenses. These savings will be directly invested back into student-facing infrastructure, such as new classrooms and upgraded labs.

The new facility will be located adjacent to UM’s historic steam plant and generate up to 5 megawatts with two natural gas turbines and a steam turbine. The heat recovery steam generator will use heat from the natural gas turbines’ exhaust to produce steam.

Combined heat and power, also known as cogeneration, is the concurrent production of electricity and heat from a single source of energy. UM currently operates a steam plant that burns natural gas to heat campus buildings. The existing steam plant includes three boilers that date from the 1960s and generate electricity and heat, but to a smaller degree than the new plant.

“CHP is a really unique and impactful project for UM because it involves updating existing historic campus infrastructure while adding a new modern cogeneration system that will allow UM to generate additional power savings, and save us money,” said Paul Trumbley, UM associate director of utilities and engineering. “The new CHP plant will be designed with multiple units and turndown capabilities, giving its operators plenty of flexibility when it comes
to power production.”

This also means that, as UM continues to add more solar installations to campus, the CHP facility’s generation can be responsive. The plant will be capable of burning biogas or hydrogen, when available, making it possible for UM to someday generate a significant amount of its own electricity with non-carbon sources.

The design and construction of the facility is being led by energy services contractor McKinstry with input and direction from UM facilities engineers. The original idea for the project arose during a series of conversations between UM facilities engineers and Montana Department of Environmental Quality staff about on-campus energy project options. Five years and multiple feasibility studies later, the project caught the attention of Paul Lasiter, UM’s vice president for Operations and Finance.

Lasiter said the CHP was compelling because it will revitalize UM’s aging steam plant infrastructure, substantially reduce carbon emissions and generate significant energy cost savings.

Lasiter described the CHP as “a best-case scenario to be able to improve our existing steam plant, support our sustainability and emissions reduction goals and see significant savings on utilities costs all in one project.”

According to the MEPA assessment that was conducted by Bison Engineering for the CHP, once online the new turbines will result in a 30% reduction of UM’s greenhouse emissions, a more significant reduction than UM has been able to realize since first assessing and making public its GHG emissions back in 2009.

“We’ve seen our emissions footprint decrease as a result of investments in energy conservation and efficiency, but not 30%,” said UM Sustainability Director Eva Rocke. “Without a doubt, CHP represents the largest investment UM has made to date in technology and campus improvements that will have a direct and positive impact on our carbon footprint.”

More information about the University’s CHP plant is available online.
UM Breaks Ground on New Power Facility, Slashes Emissions 30%

Contact: Eva Rocke, director, UM Office of Sustainability, 406-243-4323, eva.rocke@umontana.edu.
Beloved Literary Couple Establishes UM Native American Visiting Writer Fund

22 NOVEMBER 2021
Beloved Literary Couple Establishes UM Native American Visiting Writer Fund

Lois Welch has established the James and Lois Welch Distinguished Native American Visiting Writer Fund to honor her late husband, acclaimed author James Welch. The fund will be used to bring a prominent Native American writer to campus to teach each spring semester.

MISSOULA – Native American voices will enjoy a greater prominence at the University of Montana thanks to a new visiting writer fund established by Lois Welch to honor her late husband, acclaimed author James Welch.

UM will use the James and Lois Welch Distinguished Native American Visiting Writer Fund to bring a prominent Native American writer to campus to teach each spring semester. In the future, the position will become endowed through a significant gift included in Lois Welch’s estate plan. The endowment means her gift will be invested and the earnings made available to support the program in perpetuity.

“A gift of this magnitude has never been offered to UM’s creative writing program before, and it will certainly enhance the stature and visibility of the program,” said Professor Judy Blunt, chair of the College of Humanities and Sciences Department of English and director of UM’s Creative Writing Program. “But the vision also recognizes the value of literature in both Lois’s and Jim’s lives.”

Lois Welch, who served as a professor of comparative literature at UM and head of the creative writing program, said the $50,000 per year visiting writer fund is a “natural progression” from a number of other ways the Welches have supported UM, its writing programs and the Native American writing community. Their contributions include the Welch Scholarship, which is awarded to creative writing students, particularly undergraduate students of Indigenous descent, and a new James Welch Native American Writers Festival planned for summer 2022.

“Jim would have recognized the tribute and what it can accomplish,” Lois said of the new visiting writer program, “but at the same time he was so humble, he could have never set himself apart.”

Jim Welch spent much of his early years on the Blackfeet Reservation, the homeland of his father, and the Fort Belknap Reservation, the homeland of his mother. His family moved to various places in the country.

Welch is one of the Native authors credited with starting what has been termed “the Native
American Renaissance” in the late 1960s, a period lauded for the significant increase in production of literary works by Native American writers.

“When Welch’s ‘Winter in the Blood’ got a front-page review on The New York Times Book Review, he changed not only Native American literary history, but the American literature canon of masterworks,” said Kathryn Shanley (Nakoda), professor and chair of Native American Studies at UM. “His contributions can be seen today in a new generation of Native and non-Native writers. The Jim and Lois Welch visiting writer fund honors that tremendous legacy and brings Jim’s international achievements back home to Montana. We are grateful for the Welches’ generosity and vision.”

After getting his bachelor’s degree in 1965, Jim Welch enrolled in the then-fledgling Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing. There he would meet his mentor and friend poet Richard Hugo.

“Jim became a writer, thanks to Hugo,” Lois Welch said. “Hugo was a working-class guy and an amazing poet. And Jim thought, ‘if he can do it, I can do it’.

“We don’t give enough attention to the importance of having a role model,” she said. “It’s so important that we have a place where Native Americans can tell their stories and be heard.”

In addition to “Winter in the Blood,” Welch would go on to write other acclaimed works, including “Fools Crow” – which was a staple book in many Montana high school English classes – “The Indian Lawyer” and “Killing Custer: The Battle of Little Bighorn and the Fate of the Plains Indians,” a nonfiction work borne from Welch’s collaboration with filmmaker Paul Stekler on the PBS documentary, “Last Stand at Little Bighorn.”

In his last novel, “Heartsong of Charging Elk,” Welches’ Lakota protagonist goes to France in the Buffalo Bill’s Wild West show. When Charging Elk gets sick and stranded there, he gets caught “between two worlds.” As a writer of Blackfeet-Gros Ventre heritage, Welch understood that position well.

In addition to his critical acclaim in the U.S., Welch’s work was published in multiple languages around the world, and he was particularly popular in France. He frequently traveled abroad, often accompanied by Lois, who speak fluent French and served as his translator. In 1997, Jim Welch was awarded the Chevalier de L’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres medal.
Beloved Literary Couple Establishes UM Native American Visiting Writer Fund

As a UM administrator, Lois Welch, was instrumental in bringing the English department “into the 20th century,” Blunt said, bridging the gap between literature and creative writing and launching the first class on women writers despite some initial pushback from others in the college.

“She was a gift to our department,” Blunt said. “Our success has to do with people like Lois being brave enough to say we are going to do this thing and then doing it.”

The James and Lois Welch Distinguished Native American Visiting Writer residency will start in spring 2023. Those writers selected for the program can be authors of poetry or prose – both genres that Jim Welch mastered – and will teach a graduate creative writing workshop and an undergraduate course in Native American literature, Blunt said.

“Each of our individual English programs and all of our students can benefit from learning about Native American literature from someone who deeply understands it and writes it as well,” she said.

The UM Foundation invites donors to help continue and grow the James and Lois Welch Distinguished Native American Visiting Writer Fund. Visit www.hs.umt.edu/creativewriting/donate.php to make a gift online or mail a financial gift to the University of Montana Foundation, noting the James and Lois Welch Distinguished Native American Visiting Writer Fund on checks, at P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159.

To make a gift over the phone or for questions about giving, call Dan Minor, senior director of development for the College of Humanities and Sciences, at 406-438-6364 or email dan.minor@supportum.org.

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**Contact:** Judy Blunt, UM English Department chair and director of UM’s Creative Writing Program, 406-243-2275, judy.blunt@umontana.edu.
Beloved Literary Couple Establishes UM Native American Visiting Writer Fund
MISSOULA – CyberMontana, a newly created statewide cybersecurity resource for Montana
based at Missoula College, completed a highly successful cybersecurity incident response training effort with the Montana Army National Guard (MTANG) in early November.

Eight guardsmen participated in the daylong training session, which involved three cyber-attack scenarios tasking soldiers with identifying the extent of the cyber breaches, determining the source of the intrusion andremedying the effects of the attacks.

Training took place through a cloud-based “cyber range,” which simulates a large computer network containing workstations, file servers, web servers, firewalls and cybersecurity management tools.

Tom Gallagher, dean of the University of Montana’s Missoula College, worked for several months with Travis Light, the MTANG cyber defense chief, to provide the incident response training.

“There is a critical need throughout Montana to provide workforce development training – particularly upskilling – for our cybersecurity professionals,” Gallagher said. “Cyber range simulations give learners real-world scenarios to build their response skills using industry-standard software tools. We are very pleased to work with the Montana Army National Guard in this effort and look forward to future collaboration.”

Cyber range simulations involve several elements of typical computer networks, including Windows and Linux workstations and servers. Vendor-specific software programs plan an important role in simulations, notifying trainees of unusual or malicious network activity, indicating the status of monitored network components and analyzing network communications activity.

“Trainees use their cybersecurity knowledge, as well as the insight provided by software tools, to identify, analyze and repair the effects of a network breach,” Gallagher said.

“CyberMontana provided the Montana Army National Guard’s Cyber Defense Team with realistic training scenarios using a robust simulation of an enterprise network environment,” Light said. “Our team gained insight into techniques used by modern adversaries to compromise computer systems and received hands-on experience with cybersecurity tools.”

Funded by the Montana State Legislature during the 2021 session, CyberMontana is a statewide initiative at Missoula College to provide workforce development, cybersecurity
Missoula College’s CyberMontana Trains Montana National Guard

awareness and training for businesses and residents of Montana.

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**Contact:** Tom Gallagher, Missoula College dean and professor, 406-243-7899, tom.gallagher@mso.umt.edu.
Missoula College’s CyberMontana Trains Montana National Guard
Salena Beaumont Hill is UM’s first director of inclusive excellence. In that role, she serves and supports underrepresented student populations and helps to chart a more inclusive future for the University.
MISSOULA – Salena Beaumont Hill is the first to say she didn’t recognize the job title. A friend sent her the position description for the director of inclusive excellence at the University of Montana and her immediate thought was, “What does that mean?”

Fast-forward one year (and a pandemic), and Hill has become a trusted adviser for many students on campus, working within a role that is increasingly critical in higher education: creating efforts and impact across diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism (or DEI).

It’s a big job; one that Hill says boils down to creating space at UM for every single person – with an emphasis on supporting underrepresented populations – so they can thrive. And, in that process, “level the playing field of higher education.”

She says that can only happen through a full-court press toward DEI.

“On a national scale, we’re seeing an increasingly diverse student body seek higher education,” Hill says. “And that’s not the same student body that higher education was originally designed for. So, it’s a really interesting time to work within a very old educational model whose systems don’t work for everyone. It’s kind of like reconfiguring a framework from the inside.”

Hill, the University’s very first director of the Inclusive Excellence for Student Success office, says that her job can mean a lot of different things to many people. But to her, the job funnels down to something she says is at the heart of her passion: supporting students. In particular, students who identify as Black, Indigenous and people of color, or BIPOC, and LGBTQ+.

“Or any student for whom the infrastructure of higher education was not built for, nor is working very well for,” Hill says. “A lot of the work is finding ways and places to champion the change. This is a place for everyone.”

Those changes can look big and small, depending on who drops by Hill’s office during the day, where Hill employs her training in counseling. (She earned a doctorate in counselor education and supervision from UM in 2020). She says the emotional labor of the work – of listening and providing a safe space for students – can be exhausting, “but incredibly rewarding.”

Conversations with students, she says, run the gamut – from validating an experience of a
microaggression to advocating for a student who has trouble navigating systems that are at odds with their cultural perspectives. Sometimes that looks like equipping students with a sense of confidence and belonging, and other times that can look like evaluating systems and removing barriers.

For the moments when student experiences fall into the categories of discrimination and harassment, she leans into her support network across campus that includes UM’s Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX and UM’s Student Advocacy Resource Center, which are both dedicated to legal and support structures across harassment, sexual assault and discrimination.

“Sometimes a student will just really need to talk something out, to share,” Hill says. “I get to be that person who can validate an experience for them and then think about the ways I can be an advocate for them and for change.”

Hill says that these hard moments, coupled with a willingness to learn and listen, can eventually lead UM to a greater understanding of implicit bias and gain a heightened awareness of unequal opportunities.

“The goal is to remove barriers,” she says. “If there’s a joke in a classroom that actually had racist undertones, or if there’s a curriculum that could widen its cultural perspective, or a student who doesn’t see themselves represented in staff or faculty, or painful, unspoken messages that students internalize – those are all systems that can be changed and that have to.”

As an Indigenous woman – Hill is Apsáalooke from the Crow Nation – she knows a thing or two about navigating systems as a minority. She didn’t know it at the time, but she was already doing DEI work while researching her dissertation, which solely included interviews and research from within her own Native community.

“My dissertation chair supported me in using an Indigenous research methodology, which uses Indigenous ways of knowing and let me be who I already am when I was doing my research,” she says. “I didn’t have to put on a Western research methodology hat just to talk to the people in my own community and learn from them. For Dr. Murray to support using an Indigenous research methodology, and that she saw this research methodology as being equal and as valid as the “traditional” ways of Western research methods, that is DEI. That is equity in higher education at work.”
Hill even takes a tenant from the late Crow Chief Plenty Coup into her work, honing his philosophy that education is a route to change everything, and quotes him directly: “Education is your most powerful weapon.”

“I see myself in this role as opening more doors for people like me, or who have had experiences like me,” Hill says. “We have an obligation to look behind us and open the doors for everyone else.”

Adrianna Medina, a senior from Georgetown, Texas, said Hill’s presence on campus has allowed her to thrive as a Latina student.

“As a parks and recreation major, with not a lot of Latinas in that major and field, talking to Selena about DEI has been an incredible experience,” Medina said. “I feel so lucky to get to work with her and learn from her.”

Medina said Hill helped her develop a communications framework around DEI and deeper listening – skills.

“She helped me understand how to truly listen and take in other people’s perspectives and properly speak and communicate about those differences,” Medina said. “That has been invaluable to me.”

True equity, Hill says, is a long way off, but the seeds of change are sprouting each time a student walks through her door. In addition to serving students, Hill along with her colleagues at UM’s Student Advocacy Research Center, lead learning sessions on the definitions of diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-racism, microaggressions and allyship, and Hill is hard at work developing programming to better support BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students and work closely with students to create a supportive peer network for underrepresented students. She also provides leadership on UM’s DEI plan and manages a budget within those efforts.

She said another motivation for focusing on this work is because UM didn’t choose to hire a chief diversity officer, or a top-level administrator first. Instead, they chose to listen to students and hire a student-facing position who would support and advocate for them.

“What I admire about UM is that they really listened to what the campus and what students were saying about what was needed,” Hill says. “They saw the acute need when it comes to
student-facing support, and they hired a person (me) to fill that role because it’s most important right now.”

Hill believes in coming years UM will expand its efforts, programs and staff dedicated to DEI efforts.

“Not one person can do this work,” she says. “And there are a lot of amazing, talented people on this campus doing the good, hard work. I’m just one of them. And it’s an honor to be here.”

###

**Contact:** Dave Kuntz, UM strategic communications director, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umontana.edu.
UMANNOUNCES
NEW SCHOLARSHIP
FOR MONTANA
STUDENTS

Terry and Patt Payne

MISSOULA – The
University of

Montana has launched a major new scholarship to help Montana students pay for college.

The Payne Family Impact Scholarship, established with a significant $7.5 million gift from longtime UM supporters Terry and Patt Payne, will be awarded to hundreds of Montana high school students who choose to attend UM beginning in fall 2022.

“When it comes to paying for school, too often Montana families find themselves caught in the middle of a financial gap where aid is hard to come by and the cost of tuition is out of reach,” said UM President Seth Bodnar. “This scholarship will remove the financial burden that keeps too many Montanans from accessing a higher education and further fulfills UM’s responsibility to promote inclusive prosperity in our state.”

The scholarship was created to assist Montana students who grow up in families who earn too much money to secure large financial aid packages, such as Pell Grants, but don’t have the resources to outright pay for college.

Students who receive the four-year renewable scholarship can stack this award on top of other scholarships and financial aid, using it to pay for tuition, books, room and board and other college costs.

“Our family is blessed to be able to contribute to the education and future success of Montana students,” Terry Payne said. “We wish our gift to bring hope to students who otherwise may be
UM Announces New Scholarship for Montana Students

unable to attend the University of Montana or continue their education once enrolled.”

A 1963 UM alumnus, Terry Payne began his career in insurance while still in college and built the successful PayneWest Insurance Inc. on principles centered around what is best for the “three Cs” of Clients, Colleagues and Communities.

That commitment to community is apparent in all that Terry and his wife, Patt, support philanthropically, especially at UM. The Paynes’ contributions have included investments in the Payne Family Native American Center, that center’s Elouise Cobell Land and Culture Institute, and a number of student scholarships. Their most recent gift supports the construction of a new Montana Museum of Art and Culture building.

Beyond UM, the Paynes have made a significant gift to help fund the recently dedicated American Indian Hall at Montana State University, and their contributions to Gonzaga University have included support for the Payne Center for Leadership Development, as well as scholarships for future leaders and high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds. At Carroll College in Helena, they supported the Hunthausen Activity Center and funding for Carroll’s newly created Master of Social Work program.

“Terry and Patt embody the spirit of philanthropy and giving back,” Bodnar said. “We are deeply grateful for their generosity and their commitment to making a UM degree accessible for all students so that those students may pursue lives and careers of impact.”

The UM financial aid office will begin awarding the Payne Family Impact Scholarship funds Dec. 1. Students should apply for admission to UM and submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to UM to be considered for the scholarship. Once selected for the scholarship, students will be assigned an academic adviser who will work directly with them as they prepare to launch the next chapter of their education at UM.

Students are encouraged to apply to UM and submit their FASFA to UM today. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, visit https://www.umt.edu/finaid/scholarships/impact-scholarship.php.

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Contact: Dave Kuntz, UM director of strategic communications, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umontana.edu.
UM Announces New Scholarship for Montana Students

UM President Announces $300K Endowment to Powwow in Honor of Old Person

UM Kyiyo Student Club President Zachariah Rides At the Door and Kyiyo Vice President Seirra Paske present UM President Seth Bodnar with a blanket in UM's Payne Family Native American Center. Bodnar announced he was gifting the Kyiyo club a $300,000 endowment in honor of the late Chief Earl Old Person.
MISSOULA – In the heart of the Payne Family Native American Center on the University of Montana campus, UM President Seth Bodnar announced Monday that he directed $300,000 from a recent gift to establish an endowment to support UM’s Kyiyo Pow Wow student group.

The new endowment is named for the late Chief Earl Old Person, one of the country’s most decorated and respected Native leaders who died in October 2021 at the age of 92.

Bodnar said the endowment is intended to “sustain and improve” the student-run powwow. It honors Old Person as a longtime friend to UM and as a “symbol of the many ways our Kyiyo student group makes this campus better.”

“In reflecting on Chief Old Person’s impact not only for UM and our students, but on behalf of the state and the country, I can think of no greater way to continue his legacy than to provide our Kyiyo students with funds that will allow the powwow to continue, hopefully – for a very long time to come,” Bodnar said. “He gave of himself for his people, for his community, that culminated in an incredible life of impact. In many ways, so much of his spirit and what he advocated for embodies UM.”
Members of Old Person’s family attended the announcement celebration, with emotional testimonies surrounding his legacy and impact that extended far beyond the Blackfeet Nation. Old Person was a longtime fixture at the annual powwow with the Rawhide Singers, and he was a generational voice that promoted the benefits of education, of knowing one’s culture and championing students who sought to bring knowledge home to reservation communities.

Paul “Windy” Old Chief and his grandson sang songs during the ceremony and shared memories of Old Person. Old Chief is now the only singer of the original Rawhide Singers, who sang at every UM commencement ceremony for the past 20 years.

Homegun places a ribbon on UM President Seth Bodnar in memory of Chief Earl Old Person. Homegun’s father, Kenneth Old Person, was a longtime member of the Rawhide Singers with Chief Old Person. Homegun and family members visited UM for the announcement of a $300,000 endowment to UM’s Kyiyo Powwow, made in memory of Old Person.

The Kyiyo Pow Wow is a living testament to the power of indigenous knowledge and tradition, as well as to the strength of Native American people, he said.

“He always said, know your history, know who you are,” Old Chief said. “He said our Indian
language was worth knowing and preserving, and whenever he asked me to sing, I’d never turn him down or tell him ‘no.’ It’s still a very difficult time for us all, but I want to thank UM and the administration for carrying Earl’s memory and spirit and for our students, who can keep the powwow going. Earl never missed a powwow, and he never missed a graduation ceremony.”

Zachariah Rides at the Door, president of UM’s Kyiyo student group, addressed the audience in the Blackfeet language and said the endowment will support Native students and the longevity of the powwow.

“We are honored to receive this gift, and we thank you, President Bodnar, for your support for Native students and the powwow,” he said. “Putting on the powwow is always stressful when you’re a student and trying to fundraiser for the event, and so these funds are greatly appreciated.”

A student group formed in the 1960s, UM’s annual Kyiyo Pow Wow Celebration is one of the oldest student-run powwows in the country. It aims to unify all Native Americans from across the nation, serving to both preserve and renew rich Native American traditions. The event provides a venue for dancing, singing and storytelling, representing a diversity of tribes and cultures.

At the end of the event, Arlan Edwards, grandson of Old Person, sang the Blackfeet Victory Song. He said the song was to celebrate a victory, and the last time Chief Old Person sang it, it was during the graduation of Browning High School.

“Let’s celebrate this victory today of our students, that’s what Earl would have wanted,” he said.

Bodnar closed the ceremony by thanking the family members of Old Person, who drove down from Browning for the event. Rides At The Door and Sierra Paske, vice president of Kyiyo, presented Bodnar with a quilted blanket.

“To be clear,” Bodnar said, “this is just the beginning. And this blanket, that is a such a generous gesture, frankly belongs to the both of you, who are doing the work of making this campus better and for placing Indigenous culture at the center of our campus experience.”

The designation is made possible by a one-time philanthropic gift to the Excellence Fund, which provides resources that the UM president may use to address campus priorities.
UM President Announces $300K Endowment to Powwow in Honor of Old Person

Additional charitable donations are needed to grow the endowment so it will fully support annual pow wow expenses. The designation is made possible by a one-time philanthropic gift to the Excellence Fund, which provides resources that the UM president may use to address campus priorities. To contribute to the Chief Earl Old Person Kyiyo Pow Wow Fund, visit www.supportum.org/Earl-Old-Person-Kyiyo to make a gift online. Gifts may also be made by calling 800-443-2593 or mailing contributions to the University of Montana Foundation, noting the Chief Earl Old Person Kyiyo Pow Wow Fund on your check, at P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159.

Contact: Dave Kuntz, UM strategic communications director, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umontana.edu.

Related stories:
'We Still Sing': Blackfeet Rawhide Singers Carry On Commencement Tradition
UM President Announces $300K Endowment to Powwow in Honor of Old Person
UM Sends Two Law Negotiation Teams to Nationals

These law students and their coach won the right to compete at nationals as part of UM's American Bar Association Negotiation Team. They are (left to right) Mikayla Schneider, Kelly Lamb, coach Nicole Siefert, Kiki Huettl, Eric Monroe, Bethany Niman and Marisa Owens.
MISSOULA – In a first for the University of Montana, two teams competing as part of the Blewett School of Law’s American Bar Association Negotiation Team qualified for national competition.

UM captured the top two spots at the Northwest Regional ABA Negotiation Competition, which was hosted virtually Oct. 29-30 by the University of California, Berkeley. The national competition will be held online Feb. 4-5, 2022.

“I was very impressed with the team's resilience,” said Nicole Siefert, the UM coach. “We lost some team members earlier in the season, got the teams finalized significantly later than usual and the virtual competition was weeks earlier than normal. But our students competed well when it mattered.”

This year’s team included Kiki Huettl ('22) of Cypress, California; Eric Monroe ('23) of Great Falls; Mikayla Schneider ('22) of Missoula; Kelly Lamb ('22) of Bozeman; Bethany Niman ('24) of Santa Barbara, California; and Marisa Owens ('23) of Fresno, California.

They faced off against 20 teams from 10 law schools across the Northwest. Working in pairs, one UM team consisting of Lamb and Schneider and another formed by Niman and Owens took the two top spots, advancing to the national competition in the spring.

Although this is the first time UM had two teams advanced to nationals, over the years the negotiation team has earned numerous accolades. Sixteen teams have proceeded to the quarterfinal round at their respective regional competitions, nine teams have advanced to the National Competition and three teams have placed at the National Competition. The 1997 team ranked third in the nation, and the 2002 team placed second.

In 2016, the team of Frans Andersson and Kirsi Luther finished second at nationals and third at the International Competition in Oslo, Norway – the best showing of any UM School of Law Negotiation Team. It marked the team's second appearance at the International Competition.

Coach Siefert is a 2009 UM law school graduate. She was on the negotiation competition team her second and third years of law school and advanced to the national competition during that time.

To get the 2021 team ready, Siefert recruited the assistance of numerous volunteers, including
Klaus Sitte, who lead the team from 1990 until he retired in 2017 and coached Siefert when she was a student.

“Klaus Sitte, always focused on making the negotiation practice rounds interest based and practical, something I adopted this year,” Siefert said. “The law school likewise focuses on practical skills.”

Matt Rossmiller (’20) helped prepare the team for the competition in practice sessions and assisted during the competition. Charlie Cromwell (’09), Katie Mazurek (’08) and Samir Aarab (’15) negotiated against the team for practice. C.J. Johnson (’99) and Malin Johnson (’04), former team coaches, provided valuable pointers, and C.J. stepped up to substitute coach.

“For weeks we worked with our teammates to create strategies, identify what our clients wanted versus what they must have to make an agreement, and where they were able to concede,” said Niman.

The teams also went through the goals of each negotiation beforehand, identifying what the best alternative and worst alternative to a negotiated agreement would be. They then competed against one another with fake facts to practice thinking on their feet and coming to resolutions in a designated timeframe without losing sight of their client’s interests.

“When we made it past rounds one and two, our teammates who did not make it rallied to help us however they could,” Niman said. “They stayed up late and got up super early to help us prep for the final round. They cheered us on and offered genuine support before we competed. All the long hours each person put in made it possible for us to get to finals.”

“The judges of the competition told the competitors that our team presented like senior lawyers at their respective firms and commented that the legal profession would be better served if more lawyers conducted themselves like our team members,” Siefert said.

According to the team members, the value they received from the experience has been multifaceted.

“It gave me an opportunity to meet my peers outside of the classroom setting and develop friendships,” Schneider said. “It also helped me develop the soft skills being a lawyer requires but aren’t often taught in classes. I worked on my active listening. I had to understand where the other side was coming from so that I could make an offer that was beneficial to my client...
but also served theirs."

After a short break, the team will begin preparing for next year’s national competition.

For more information about the Blewett School of Law, visit https://www.umt.edu/law. Find more information more about the ABA Negotiation Competition online.

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Contact: Andi Armstrong, director of marketing and communications, UM Blewett School of Law, 406-243-6509, andrea.armstrong@umontana.edu.
UM Sends Two Law Negotiation Teams to Nationals
Patrick Beckwith will lead UM’s new Military and Veteran Services Office launched to better recruit and serve Montana veterans and military members.
MISSOULA – The University of Montana announces the new Military and Veteran Services Office to better recruit and serve Montana veterans and military members.

Patrick Beckwith will serve as the new director of UM’s Military and Veteran Services Office.

Patrick Beckwith will lead the office to enhance services and expand outreach, which will work with veterans, active duty, National Guard, Reserve and family members to turn their education benefits into degrees that lead to lives and careers of impact.

“UM is fiercely committed to tearing down the barriers that keep veterans and active duty military members from using their hard-earned education benefits,” said Seth Bodnar, UM president and a major in the Montana Army National Guard. “This new office will put the needs of our military-affiliated students first so that they can continue their education right here at UM.”

“UM’s Military and Veteran Services Office is devoted to improving support systems and growing our military-affiliated community,” said Beckwith, the new director. “At UM, we
understand what it means to serve, and we recognize the importance of a seamless and welcoming transition for military-affiliated students.”

Prior to taking over the new office, Beckwith graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., served a decade as an active duty Army officer and is currently serving in the Montana Army National Guard.

The new UM Military and Veteran Services Office will focus on four key areas of emphasis:

- Conduct outreach and recruit eligible students to increase enrollment among veterans, active duty military and families.
- Work with eligible students to certify and process VA benefits.
- Collaborate with UM academic departments to support transfer credits and design academic programs for students that meet the most pressing needs facing Montana.
- Create a transition program for incoming military-affiliated students and ensure their success at UM.

To improve proactive outreach to military-affiliated students across Montana and the country, the UM Military and Veteran Services Office will report to UM’s Division of Enrollment Management.

“There are more veterans per capita in Montana than almost any other state in the nation,” said Mary Kreta, UM associate vice president for enrollment. “It is not only a priority for this university, but it is a responsibility to our state to work harder to ensure more veterans, military members and families use their education benefits to access an education.”

Among the first actions taken this month was to waive the application fee for veteran students. Over the coming months, Beckwith will lead proactive efforts to make it easier for military-affiliated students to continue their education and workforce training at UM.

The UM Military and Veteran Services Office will incorporate the existing VETS Office, which serves as a liaison between students, UM and the VA.
UM Launches New Military and Veteran Services Office to Serve Montana

There are currently 250 veterans enrolled in UM, in addition to 129 family members and dependents of veterans or service members and 19 active National Guardsmen and women and Reservists.

To support military-affiliated students at UM, visit https://www.umt.edu/veterans/give.php to make a gift online. UM supporters who prefer to make a gift by phone, please call 800-443-2593 or mail a financial gift to the University of Montana Foundation, noting the Military and Veteran Services Office, at P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159.

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**Contact:** Patrick Beckwith, director of UM Military and Veteran Services Office, patrick.beckwith@mso.umt.edu; Dave Kuntz, UM Strategic Communications Director, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umontana.edu.
UM financial aid and financial education experts share their top five tips for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

MISSOULA – The nation’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is a form that prospective and current college students must complete to receive federal funding for higher education from the U.S. Department of Education. The FAFSA is the major kicking-off point for
the majority of educational funds, including some scholarships at many schools like the University of Montana. The U.S. Department of Education notes that students who submit a FAFSA application are more likely to attend college.

The FAFSA forms for the 2022-23 year are now available and should be completed and submitted by December, according to UM’s Financial Education Program. UM financial aid experts say that it typically takes about 40 to 45 minutes to complete the form for first-time users and about 20 minutes for current students to renew the form. To make that process a bit easier, UM financial aid staff share their top five tips for completing the FAFSA.

**Tip No. 1: Secure a Federal Student Aid login.**

Before you can complete the FAFSA online, you’ll need an account and login (your parents will, too) with the Federal Student Aid office found at [https://studentaid.gov/](https://studentaid.gov/). Federal Student Aid includes an online application to the FAFSA.

**Tip No. 2: If you are under 24 years old, have a parent with you.**

If you’re a dependent of your parents and intend to use your parent or guardian’s financial statements to quality for student loans, FAFSA is going to require a lot of information from them. This includes questions about the date your parents were married, their social security numbers and their birthdates. If you are not a dependent or if you’re over the age of 24, you can complete the form individually. UM provides a helpful drop-down menu for all questions related to parents and dependents.

**Tip No. 3: Have 2020 tax information at-the-ready.**

FAFSA requires up to the last two years from you or your parent’s tax information. It’s best to have tax transcripts readily accessible, either through the IRS website or by print.

**Pro-tip:** Fill out your information such as your home address and name exactly as it appears on tax documents. Don’t be surprised that filling in “avenue” vs. “street” or the name “Robert” vs. “Robby” can be a roadblock. Every piece of income information must read exactly as presented on personal tax forms.

**Tip No. 4: Click the blue question mark icons.**
It’s easy to feel confused by the details. Thankfully, the FAFSA form includes blue question mark icons at nearly every step. When you click on the blue question marks, content will automatically pop-up providing more information. For example, when FAFSA asks you to estimate how much capital you might own in assets, a blue question mark will take you to the definition of what, exactly, FAFSA means by assets.

Tip No. 5 : Make sure you’ve added UM and up to nine other schools.

FAFSA allows for the automatic submission of up to 10 accredited institutions of higher education. Even if you think you may not attend, UM financial aid experts recommend inputting all 10 schools where an applicant may consider attending. FAFSA automatically sends FAFSA information to those selected schools. If the applicant does not attend a particular school on their form, there is no negative consequence. Universities cannot personally request FAFSA forms. They must be listed on applicants form to receive the information.

**Pro-tip:** Be sure one of the schools on the form is the University of Montana.

UM’s Financial Education Program regularly delivers free, information sessions on FAFSA for current UM students and any prospective students or Montana high schools. Both UM’s Financial Aid and Financial Education Offices are available for walk-in, phone and zoom counseling.

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**Contact:** UM Financial Aid Office, 406-243-5373, finaid@umontana.edu.

**Related stories:**

Financial Education Program Lifts Students Toward Success
UM's Top Five Tips for Filling Out the FAFSA
UM Receives $850,000 Google.org Grant to Support Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs
UM Receives $850,000 Google.org Grant to Support Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs

MISSOULA – The University of Montana’s startup incubator MonTEC has received an $850,000 grant from the Google.org Impact Challenge for Women and Girls to support Indigenous women looking to start or grow a business in Montana.

MonTEC will use the funds in collaboration with Salish Kootenai College and Blackfeet Community College to develop online programming in a variety of subjects to support new and existing female-owned businesses.

“Women of color, in particular, are incredibly underrepresented in business and leadership roles,” said Morgan Slemberger, director of Women’s Entrepreneurship & Leadership at UM. “We will use this generous grant from Google to support and supplement the existing strength of indigenous women by providing them with culturally empowering online courses.”

UM was one of 34 organizations and one of only six in the U.S. to receive the Google.org Impact Challenge for Women and Girls. In March, the $25 million philanthropy program invited the global nonprofit community to...
UM Receives $850,000 Google.org Grant to Support Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs

submit its boldest and most innovative ideas to create a more equitable economic reality for women and girls. Google.org then partnered with a women-led panel of experts, as well as gender equity-focused organizations Vital Voices and Project Everyone, to evaluate proposals based on four key criteria: innovation, impact, feasibility and scalability.

Marlene Doney, chair of the Business Division at Blackfeet Community College, said the entrepreneurial spirit is strong in her community, and funding from the Google.org program will help women navigate important basic skills like writing up a business plan to apply for loans.

“We previously offered a SMART Money program to teach financial literacy, and we set record enrollment in that class,” Doney said. “The desire to learn more about finances and other areas of business is something we can grow from.”

Rachel Andrews-Gould, dean of the SKC Business Division, said the team will spend the next year developing classes that include a gamut of subjects, including personal finances, taxes, marketing, business and self-care. MonTEC will build upon the existing platform the WELL Women’s Business Center is using to disseminate the classes to women enrolled in the programs and create Indigenous, virtual spaces.

The impact, Andrews-Gould said, will extend far beyond the businesses themselves.

“Every woman we help touches multiple generations and family members,” she said. “Their children, their husbands, their aunties. It will make generational differences.”

“Collaborations like these not only help deliver on UM’s promise to advance inclusive prosperity for all Montana citizens but also enact a critical part of UM’s mission,” said UM President Seth Bodnar.

“This program perfectly aligns with one of our strategic priorities: Partner with Place. It reflects our commitment to recognize and support the talent of the people of Montana, including those living in rural areas and Indigenous communities, to promote the prosperity of our state and region.”

In addition to funding, UM, MonTEC and its partners will participate in a four-month accelerator program led by Google’s Accelerator and Women Techmakers communities and Impact
Challenge partner Vital Voices to move projects forward. “Globally, women have been near twice as likely to lose their jobs during COVID-19 as men,” said Jacquelline Fuller, president of Google.org. “It’s vital that we elevate and support work that empowers women and girls to reach their full economic potential, especially in marginalized communities. The pandemic recovery must be an inclusive one, and we know that when we invest in women and girls, we all benefit.”

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**About Google.org**

Google.org, Google’s philanthropy, supports nonprofits that address humanitarian issues and apply scalable, data-driven innovation to solving the world’s biggest challenges. We accelerate their progress by connecting them with a unique blend of support that includes funding, products and technical expertise from Google volunteers. We engage with these believers-turned-doers who make a significant impact on the communities they represent, and whose work has the potential to produce meaningful change. We want a world that works for everyone – and we believe technology and innovation can move the needle.

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UM Receives $850,000 Google.org Grant to Support Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs
UM Students Flock to New Environmental Science Major

UM students majoring in the University’s new Environmental Science and Sustainability program spent a recent weekend at UM’s Lubrecht Experimental Forest learning about environmental science and conservation in western Montana. ESS is one of UM’s fastest growing majors.
MISSOULA – Earlier this fall, a group of University of Montana students majoring in Environmental Science and Sustainability spent the weekend at UM’s Lubrecht Experimental Forest, learning about the environment and conservation in western Montana.

Their thirst for knowledge about topics like restoration, climate and water reflects a growing interest among students on employing environmental science to promote sustainability – an interest that has made ESS one of UM’s fastest growing new majors.

“I think students are really excited about connecting science – especially environmental science – and sustainability,” said Laurie Yung, professor and ESS program director. “They want the scientific foundation, but they also want the skills to make change in the world.”

Housed in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, ESS started out with 15 students in 2020 and one year later has 115 students – 88 of whom are new to the major and 68 of whom are new to UM this semester.

The field course at Lubrecht is one of the first classes ESS majors take. Students participated in discussions about public land policy and the history of the region, including Native American perspectives. They met with representatives from local land management agencies and community partners like the U.S. Forest Service, the Blackfoot Challenge and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. They also completed a service project with the Blackfoot Challenge, pulling weeds, tearing down old fencing and building a nature trail at the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area.
“The vision for the course is to get ESS students out into western Montana to reinforce that their classroom in bigger than the walls of UM,” said course instructor Brian Chaffin, associate professor of water policy and governance. “We want students to get a sense of current challenges on the landscape and introduce them to University partners who are in the field working on these problems right now.”

Lark Olson, a UM first-year student from Kalispell, chose ESS as a major after developing an interest in environmental issues while taking a two-year environmental systems and society course through her high school’s International Baccalaureate program.

Olson said she particularly enjoyed the weekend’s trip to the Blackfoot River, where she collected and sorted aquatic invertebrates to sample the river’s water quality.

“All in all, though, my favorite part of the seminar was all of the amazing people that I got to meet,” said Olson who is double majoring in music and plays for the UM Symphony Orchestra. “I’ve never been around so many people who share my interests. It was a great way to get the ball rolling in terms of learning about what I may want to do in the environmental science field.”
The interdisciplinary nature of the ESS program is a draw for students, Yung said. They receive a broad education in environmental science and can specialize in six concentrations, including the highly flexible resource conservation concentration. The major requires hands-on learning, so students walk away with real-world experience.

“Our students want a science degree that is very integrated, and they want to learn how to use that science to solve problems,” Yung said. “The ESS degree connects science to action. UM is a beautiful, amazing place. You can go right out the door into western Montana and get hands-on experience with the very topics you are studying. You’re not only learning how ecological and social systems work on the ground but also meeting the leaders who are solving environmental problems.”

UM junior Brooke DeRuwe originally chose a different focus in the college, but immediately switched majors as soon as she heard about the new ESS program.

“I think that the degree is giving me a well-rounded education in environmental science,” she said. “It’s a broad major that you can focus on something specific. Especially for students who don’t want to declare a specific path. If you’re interested in nature at all, majoring in environmental science will open so many doors for you.”

Originally from Spokane, Washington, DeRuwe is minoring in climate change studies and is a part of the Franke Global Leadership Initiative. She’s also a UM Advocate and a member of the Climate Response Club. She wants to eventually work with the ocean and study marine science.

“People just chuckle because there is no ocean in Montana,” she said. “I’m well aware of that.”

Last summer DeRuwe worked as an intern at the Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota, Florida, helping with data collection and research for its sea turtle program. Duties included releasing baby sea turtles back into the wild.

The internship provided important work experience and fulfilled DeRuwe’s experiential learning requirement. She says her experiences in the ESS major and the College of Forestry and Conservation helped her land the internship.

“I want prospective students to know that they’re going to be supported by faculty and fellow students,” DeRuwe said. “It’s a very welcoming community. If there’s anything you want to
achieve, the people around you are going to help make that happen to the best of their ability.”

Chaffin said the ESS program encapsulates the best of what the Franke College of Forestry and Conservation has to offer.

“Students who know they want to work in the environmental field, but they’re not sure they want to be something very specific like a forester or a wildlife biologist, can explore every aspect of human-environment relationships,” he said. “They can take classes in fire simultaneously with classes in rural community development. They can sample everything and also get a strong foundation in environmental sciences. There’s no limit in the environmental space to where students can work with this degree.”

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**Contact:** Laurie Yung, Environmental Science and Sustainability program director, 406-243-6934, laurie.yung@mso.umt.edu.
UM Students Flock to New Environmental Science Major
UM music student Marley Ball is taking her talent with the cello across the state and exploring different musical genres.

MISSOULA – University of Montana music student Marley Ball had a tough choice to make.
Remain in Missoula this Friday, Nov. 5, to hear guest pianist Thomas Kotcheff perform one of her original compositions at UM’s Music Recital Hall or travel to Bozeman for a performance of Modern Rock Orchestra. Ball is the instrumental rock band's music supervisor and also has performed as one of its two cellists.

“I am staying for the recital,” said Ball, admitting somewhat ruefully that – and she’s been on the President’s 4.0 List several semesters – she can’t be in two places at once.

A Billings native, Ball is in her senior year of music studies in UM’s School of Music and is learning through her work for Modern Rock Orchestra that putting on a show is more than just tuning your instrument and showing up to play.

“I recruit musicians, get music out to them, determine how we’re going to arrange sections and oversee mic and stage set up,” Ball said. “It’s a lot of work but definitely worth it.”

While fluent in piano, Ball said she’s is most drawn to the cello, “because it emulates the human voice and speaks so beautifully.” Ball’s cello was made by noted string-instrument maker John Kirk of Billings.

Early in her academic career, she transferred from the University of Idaho to UM to study under Adam Collins, a visiting assistant professor of cello at UM. She knew he could take her skills with the four-string instrument to the next level.

“Marley is emblematic of the students who really thrive at UM,” said Collins, who is himself the principal cellist for the Missoula Symphony. “She is taking what she is learning in performance and music studies and applying it to important experiential learning outside of school.”
During her studies, Ball has developed a passion for genres beyond the classical realm typically associated with the cello. She enjoys stepping into the world of rock, country and blues and has played for many local bands.

“I love when string instruments are applied to these genres because it surprises people and keeps them curious about how the genre can develop,” Ball said.

As for her plans after graduation, she likely will head to a city with a slightly larger music scene, but leaving Missoula will not be easy.

“It’s super welcoming,” Ball said. “At the school everyone is so talented and collaborative. It’s like a little home.”

Contact: Dave Kuntz, UM strategic communications director, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umontana.edu.
UM Music Student Hitting Sweet Notes Across Montana

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Vin D’Angelo, a USGS fisheries biologist, holds up a nonnative lake trout that was caught recently in Glacier National Park’s Logging Lake. (Photo courtesy Joe Giersch, USGS)
FLATHEAD LAKE – Invasive species cause biodiversity loss and about $120 billion in annual damages in the U.S. alone. Despite plentiful evidence that invasive species can change food webs, how invaders disrupt food webs and native species over time has remained unclear.

Now, thanks to a new collaborative study, there is greater insight into how invasive species progressively affect native food webs. The research was conducted by the University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station, the U.S. Geological Survey and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

“This study provides new details about how invasive lake trout affect entire lake food webs,” said U.S. Fish and Wildlife fish biologist Charles Wainright, who recently completed his graduate student work at UM’s biological station. “The findings will be important for conserving native species and ecosystems in Montana and elsewhere.”

The study, recently published in the prestigious journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, used long-term fisheries monitoring records to determine the timing of invasion by a nonnative fish predator, lake trout, in 10 northwestern Montana lakes. It also analyzed food webs from those lakes to determine how they changed and impacted native communities as the invasions progressed.

The research team showed that lake trout disrupted food webs by forcing native fishes to feed on suboptimal food sources in different habitats, eventually causing the loss of the native predator, bull trout, a threatened species protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

“Native bull trout populations have drastically declined in many lakes across western Montana due to competitive interactions with invasive lake trout,” said Clint Muhlfeld, a USGS aquatic ecologist and FLBS associate research professor. “For the first time, we show what happens not only to bull trout but entire food webs supporting them as lake trout invade and upset lake ecosystems over time.”

The study also showed the food-web effects of lake trout invasion were especially pronounced as lake trout abundance increased rapidly 25 to 50 years after colonization. After 50 years, lake trout were the dominant apex predator in these food webs. The study shows that, given enough time, invasive lake trout can disrupt and replace a native fish species – like bull trout – and create divergent biological communities that are vastly different than uninvaded ecosystems.
This study adds to a body of evidence showing that invasive species have affected western Montana. For example, until the late 1800s, about 10 native species of fish patrolled the waters of Flathead Lake, including abundant westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. Beginning in 1905, fisheries managers began introducing nonnative species to the food web as a means to improve Flathead Lake tourism and generate more recreational fishing appeal. Today, there are more than 20 species of fish in Flathead Lake, and introduced species like lake trout, lake whitefish, and Mysis shrimp dominate the food web in Flathead Lake, so much so that native species – including bull trout and westslope cutthroat, Montana’s state fish – have declined dramatically.

“This has been a truly collaborative effort,” said FLBS lake ecologist Shawn Devlin. “The work leverages the rather bleak history of introduction and invasion of nonnative species in northwest Montana lakes into an ecological experiment built on the power of long-term data and a deeper understanding of lake ecology.”

The study’s results stress the importance of protecting entire landscapes from biological invasions. The use of innovative biosurveillance monitoring techniques, like environmental DNA, also are critical to increasing the likelihood of detecting invaders before they become established. For ecosystems that already have been invaded, this study’s findings can inform proactive control efforts during the early stages of invasion to avoid food web disruptions that may be difficult to reverse.

The study, led by Wainright, was co-authored by Muhlfeld, Devlin, FLBS Director Jim Elser and Samuel Bourret of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. The research was supported by the USGS Biological Threats Program, FLBS and philanthropic gifts.

The complete study is now available on the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences website.

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**Photo:** Vin D’Angelo, a USGS fisheries biologist, holds up a nonnative lake trout that was caught recently in Glacier National Park’s Logging Lake. (Photo courtesy Joe Giersch, USGS)
Montana Lake Study Reveals How Invasive Species Affect Native Food Webs
Nursing students Elizabeth Hollatz and Gabriel Oetting work together on a medical manikin in a nursing foundations class at Missoula College. UM will host a Health Care Professions Career Fair on Friday, Nov. 5.
MISSOULA – As Montana continues to face a labor shortage and the pandemic places additional stress on health care fields, the University of Montana and Missoula College are hosting a health care professions career fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 5 at Missoula College.

Hosted by UM’s office of Experiential Learning and Career Success, the event is open to all students and includes 19 health care employers from across Montana and the region.

Vendors include the Montana Hospital Association, Missoula Developmental Service Corporation, Western Montana Clinic, CVS Health, Walgreens, Shodair Children’s Hospital, Billings Clinic, Bozeman Health and Kindred Healthcare, among many others.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics estimates that jobs in health care are will grow 16% over the next 10 years, adding about 2.6 million jobs – more than any other occupational group. The need for health care workers in Montana includes just about every aspect of the health care industry, according to Andrea Vernon, director of Experiential Learning and Student Success. That includes jobs that UM students are specially trained for and highly qualified to fill across nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, nursing assistants, phlebotomy, medical reception and more, Vernon said.

Aubree Osier, a junior from Idaho, is a UM health and human performance major. She said she’s interested in speaking with health career employers about job availability and special skills.

“I’m excited to attend the Health Care Professions Career Fair to network and learn more about what employers are searching for in applicants,” she said. “I’m also looking forward to exploring what career options are out there for my major.”

Kristyn Egbert, director of operations with the Montana Hospital Association, said the career fair allows Montana students to consider staying in Montana.

“Montana’s health care industry is facing an urgent labor shortage and the pandemic is placing additional stress on the industry,” Egbert said. “We’re thrilled to have the opportunity to connect with UM students interested in health care positions and connect them directly to Montana hospitals for employment. There are many job opportunities available to keep these graduates
in-state, serving their communities and providing critical work.”

The Health Care Professions Career Fair is part of UM’s dedicated efforts to promote career readiness thorough ElevateU, UM’s signature program dedicated to crafting career exploration readiness opportunities through a student’s journey at UM. ElevateU offers career development and training, access to internships, micro-credentials, career fairs and career coaching, tailored to individual students.

“As we continue to navigate a persistent pandemic, ELCS is eager to support local health care industries with staffing needs, while also supporting our students’ career readiness,” Vernon said.

For more information on the career fair email katherine.lechman@umontana.edu or call 406-243-2239.

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UM To Host Health Professions Career Fair for Students
MISSOULA – Not all rivalries are settled on the football field. The University of Montana and Missoula are once again planning to outdo Montana State University and Bozeman during the 2021 edition of the Can the Cats food drive, which benefits area charities.

Now in its 22nd year, Can the Cats will run Nov. 6 until the Griz-Cat football game at Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Nov. 20. Campus groups are once again partnering with the
Missoula Food Bank & Community Center and other community partners to deliver a Can the Cats victory.

“Last year, we canned the Bobcats by a whopping 267,525 pounds, and we hope to do it again this year,” said Hilary Rosa with the UM Food Pantry. “We have several opportunities planned for fun engagement before the big game, when the final donation totals will be announced during the first quarter.”

Can the Cats 2021 will kick off on Saturday, Nov. 6, when the Lady Griz Volleyball team squares off against the Idaho Vandals. The match starts at 2 p.m. in UM’s Adams Center, and admission is free with a donation of five cans of nonperishable food.

UM’s Office of Fraternity and Sorority Involvement will conduct a contactless food drive in the University District. Residents there can expect flyers with more information during the first week of November. University neighbors are encouraged to leave donations in a visible place on their front porch to be collected between noon and 6 p.m. Nov. 7, 13 and 17.

Clearwater Credit Union and the Missoula Food Bank will host “Stuff the Truck” from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, at the food bank parking lot at 1720 Wyoming St. Organizers hope to stuff the truck with perishable and nonperishable donations.

Later that day, swing by the Adams Center and watch the Lady Griz basketball team take on Northwest Nazarene at 5 p.m. and then the Griz men’s basketball team will play Dickenson State at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free to both games with a donation of six cans.

Griz eSports will appear at multiple locations from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13. Families can play with Griz eSports’ varsity players, learn about UM’s eSports program, watch the football game and engage with a display of local art dealing with the theme of food scarcity. More details will be posted online at https://www.instagram.com/umt_esports.

Mountain Line and WinCo foods will team up for another “Stuff the Bus” event from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 15-16. Stop by WinCo to shop and make a donation to help stuff the Mountain Line bus full of nonperishable food for Can the Cats.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UM (MOLLI) will host a virtual pep rally in the University Center Theater from 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Nov. 17. Join guest speaker Hal Stearns for a stimulating presentation on the history of the Griz-Cat rivalry. Attendees can
Griz Prepare to Can the Cats Again for Charity

make a contribution to Can the Cats for the chance to be recognized as MOLLI’s donation champion.

Student groups with the Associated Students of UM also will compete to see who can raise the most donations. Participating student groups will have collection tables set up in the University Center Atrium from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, so be sure to show up in support of your favorite student group.

The Griz-Cat rivalry will rev up in earnest when Griz eSports hosts a virtual Brawl of the Wild from 4 to 11 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, in UM’s Innovation Factory and Gaming Den – both in the University Center – where UM’s varsity League of Legends and Super Smash Bros teams will compete against MSU’s. Viewers also may also tune into https://www.twitch.tv/grizzlyesportsum to watch the event live.

Those wishing to make cash donations to the Missoula Food Bank at any point during Can the Cats can do so at every Campus Dining location. All registers will be programmed to accept meal plan funds, flex dollars, Bear Bucks, UMoney, cash, credit and debit from anyone who wants to participate. People can also donate online at canthecats.com.

Additionally, donation bins will be located in all UM residence halls, the UC Game Room, the front entrance of Brantly Hall and other locations across campus and the Missoula community Nov. 6-19. Visit canthecats.com to find the bin nearest you.

All physical food collected on campus will be donated to the UM Food Pantry, and food collected in the greater Missoula community will be donated to Missoula Food Bank. Volunteers are needed to help promote Can the Cats, monitor bins and collect donations. Sign up online to help with Can the Cats.

The Griz-Cat “Brawl of the Wild” football game will be held at noon Saturday, Nov. 20, at Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Donations will be collected at every entrance until kickoff, and final donation totals will be announced during the first quarter. Keep up to date on all Can the Cat activities at canthecats.com or on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/CantheCats/.

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Griz Prepare to Can the Cats Again for Charity

rosa@mtcompact.org; Carmen Thissen, events and marketing coordinator, Missoula Food Bank & Community Center, 406-541-0768, carment@missoulafoodbank.org.
Mansfield Center Seeks High School Juniors for Korea Exchange

01 November 2021

The 2016 youth ambassadors for Project Bridge.

MISSOULA – The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana seeks four Missoula area high school juniors to serve as youth ambassadors for a cultural exchange with Korea, Los Angeles and New York. Applications close Nov. 7.

In the spirit of cultivating culturally sensitive leaders able to engage in a global economy, the Korea Society and the Pacific Century Institute invite Montana youth to join a cohort of youth ambassadors in the Project Bridge intercultural youth leadership program.

During the six-month program, students will cultivate their understanding of leadership skills and Korean society and culture through bi-monthly workshops. Pandemic allowing, the project culminates in a 10-day study tour in Korea in April 2022, followed by a community service project or presentation.

Originally created in response to the 1992 Los Angeles riots in which a disproportionate number of affected shopkeepers were of Korean origin, the goal of the program is to “bridge” gaps through cultural awareness and leadership training. The exchange aims to cultivate future community leaders, with an emphasis on cultural and racial sensitivity and an understanding of Korean society and history.

The program also bridges the urban and rural divide in the United States, bringing together high school students from Los Angeles, New York City and Montana.

“Project Bridge is the ideal experience for students looking to bolster their skills in cross-cultural communication, public speaking and relationship building,” said Mansfield Center Executive Director Deena Mansour. “We invite applications from students who feel prepared to represent Montana and their home communities in this global experience.”

The Mansfield Center is honored to continue in its partnership with Project Bridge for the second year as part of its mission to foster globally-minded leaders of integrity. International dialogue and the exchange of cultures are vital to the Mansfield Center’s mission to enhance
Mansfield Center Seeks High School Juniors for Korea Exchange

mutual understanding between the United States, Asia and the world.

Students interested in more information should explore the Mansfield Center website at www.umt.edu/mansfield.

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**Contact:** Randi Edwards, program manager, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-6608, randi.edwards@mso.umt.edu.