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Colin Scott, a movie producer who graduated from the University of Montana in 2008, filmed “Ted K” in the same wilderness near Lincoln where Ted Kaczynski, the infamous Unabomber, lived in a small cabin.

Sharlto Copley (left), a South African actor who portrayed
MISSOULA – The remote wilderness near Lincoln where Ted Kaczynski, the infamous Unabomber, lived still has signs of his presence.

Filmmakers behind the new Unabomber movie, “Ted K,” found empty cans of food, a wooden ladder and Kaczynski’s initials in a piece of concrete. On a tree where his cabin stood is a carving that reads, “FBI,” left by a federal agent.

“The Unabomber’s property was pretty eerie actually,” said Colin Scott, a producer on “Ted K” who graduated from the University of Montana in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Kaczynski terrorized the country for almost two decades, starting in the late 1970s by sending bombs to those he believed were destroying the environment. Three people died in the bombings.

Scott worked on the movie with five other filmmakers from UM: Jeri Rafter, production manager, Master of Fine Arts in Media Arts 2012; Lauren Norby, set dresser, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing 2006; Tyler Grutsch, key grip, Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts 2010; Caelan Fisher, camera operator, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Media Arts 2017; and Brooke Swaney, first assistant director, adjunct professor in film production 2016.
The UM filmmakers were part of a small movie crew that built a replica of the Unabomber’s cabin and shot 400 hours of footage on the property, from February 2018 into the summer of that year.

Scott said he felt a bond with the other UM grads as they worked together on location. During the first day filming, the crew rode snowmobiles to the remote property.

“To be thrown onto the back of snowmobiles, on top of mountains, and into the elements on day one with an inherent level of trust, language and familiarity made for an extremely smooth entry into what would end up being a really unique, physical and very fun shoot,” Scott said.

The result was a feature-length movie that had its North American premiere Feb. 15 at The Wilma Theater in Missoula. It was released Feb. 18 online and in 20 theaters across the country, including in Missoula, Los Angeles and Austin, Texas. The movie stars Sharlto Copley (“District 9” and “The A Team”), a South African actor who portrayed Kaczynski. The movie also is available on streaming platforms, including Amazon, Apple TV and VUDU.

UM alum Caelan Fisher helped operate the cameras while filming “Ted K,” about Ted Kaczynski the infamous Unabomber.

Local residents from Lincoln also made appearances in the movie, and other residents fed and housed the film crew, said Caelan.
Fisher, a UM graduate who helped operate the cameras.

“The film wouldn’t have been made if it wasn’t for the locals being as open to the project as they were,” Fisher said. “A lot of thanks are given to them.”

Fisher, who runs his own production company, C. Fisher Media, said it was his first experience working on a feature film. He credits the connections he made as a film student at UM for being able to join the crew.

“It was my first job working in the assistant camera department and it was a wild ride,” Fisher said. “They gave me opportunities to camera operate which is pretty uncommon for someone just starting out. They actually let me shoot.”

The goal was to make an authentic movie that gets into the mind of the Unabomber without condemning or condoning his actions, Scott said. The movie does not tell the audience how to feel but rather lets them decide for themselves, he said.

“It’s supposed to be a very objective study,” Scott said.

Kaczynski, a Harvard-trained mathematician, left his academic career to live alone in his 10-by-12-foot cabin. From his cabin, Kaczynski built 16 bombs that killed three people and injured 23 others across the United States between 1978 and 1995. He led authorities on the nation’s longest manhunt but was eventually arrested by FBI agents at his cabin in 1996.

Kaczynski has since been in custody at a federal Supermax prison in Colorado. In December, the 79-year-old was transferred to a federal prison medical facility in North Carolina.

During the last stages of filming “Ted K” in February 2020, Scott and the film’s director, Tony Stone, visited the Colorado prison to get shots for the movie’s final scene.

Scott said it was surreal to be near the Unabomber and know he was still alive on the other side of the prison walls. Scott wondered how Kaczynski would feel about the film.

“I think he would maybe respect the intentionality and thoughtfulness,” Scott said. “And that we tried to portray him fairly.”
UM Alumni Examine Unabomber in ‘Ted K’

Contact: Dave Kuntz, UM Strategic Communications director, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umotnana.edu.
University of Montana music composition major, Kylar Sprenger, sings with the UM Chamber Chorale in a newly remodeled practice room in UM's School of Music. The choir has been invited to perform across England and Germany this summer, in some of the world's top choral venues, competitions and festivals.
MISSOULA – When Ali Archambault, a University of Montana political science and history major from Browning, heard the UM Chamber Chorale perform on campus, something struck her.

“I just knew at that moment, I had to be a part of this choir,” Archambault said. “They sang a song about processing grief, and it was the most beautiful thing I had ever heard. I missed singing so much and immediately reached out to the choir director to ask about auditions.”

Fast forward through a successful audition and a pandemic, Archambault, along with 35 other close friends in UM's Chamber Chorale – are about to embark on the opportunity of a lifetime.

The chamber chorale has been invited to perform across England and Germany this May and June in some of the world’s top choral venues, competitions and festivals. To UM Choral Activities Director Coreen Duffy’s knowledge, this is the first time the chamber chorale has been invited to perform in an international choral competition.

“This is an incredible milestone for our students and institution,” Duffy said. “I'm thrilled for these students who finally get to perform and compete on tour after more than two years of relative choral isolation. I am thrilled for this group of students that we finally get to do the things we've been dreaming about.”
Duffy added that UM’s choral music programs are a cornerstone in UM’s acclaimed School of Music, and one thing that makes the school special is that UM students who are not music majors can enjoy a rich experience of music and the arts.

The UM Chamber Chorale includes students who audition to participate every year and performs regularly for campus and community events, singing a wide variety of repertoire, with a focus on living composers and composers historically excluded based on gender, race, or religion. UM’s Chamber Chorale includes diverse majors including neuroscience, wildlife biology and education who “still get to exercise their talent and drive for the arts” without being music majors, Duffy said.

Performing mostly difficult a cappella pieces, the choir will begin in London with performances at the historic Cadogan Hall and Southwark Cathedral. The choir then will travel to Germany to participate in a performance exchange with the University of Saarbrücken. Shortly thereafter, the choir will make its debut as a competing choir in the International Choral Competition Marktoberdorf.

Following the competition, the Chamber Chorale has been invited to serve as the masterclass choir for the International Choral Conducting Masterclass with renowned conductors Georg Grün and Ko Matsushita. The tour will conclude with performances in Munich and at the Dachau concentration camp, as well as a concert in Missoula’s sister city, Neckargamünd, which will promote friendship and connection through world harmony, Duffy said.

Before the European tour, the choir will perform at the Northwestern American Choral Directors Association conference in Spokane March 9-12. An invitation to the NWACDA conference is one of the highest possible regional honors, and is a distinction nearly four years in the making, Duffy said.

“It’s all very busy, but rewarding,” Duffy said. “Because of the pandemic, our ability to travel and perform at this level was completely not an option for nearly two years. So now to be working hard together in preparation for being recognized at these prestigious events, it’s incredible.”

The UM Chamber Chorale meets to rehearse three days a week in a newly renovated, state-of-the-art rehearsal hall – part of the School of Music’s recent building upgrades. Working through difficult pieces and nuances within the textual context is where the magic is, according to UM music composition major Kylar Sprenger, from Fort Worth, Texas.
"Dr. Duffy has such a strong connection to the music and the whole process of learning the music,” Sprenger said. “It’s difficult and hard sometimes, but when we finally emerge from just learning to read a difficult piece, to performing it together, it’s just an incredible thing to be a part of.”

Sprenger said the choir is a talented group of students with “rich musicianship,” which complements the choir's community, belonging and friendship. Sprenger took a year off of singing due to the pandemic and said his return to the choir was a meaningful moment.

“The first time we performed live together, I got a little emotional,” he said. “There’s something different when you’re exposed to and feel the power of live music. I think we all have missed it immensely, and we’re so excited to get to share our music with the world.”

Duffy said the choir’s level of talent and musicianship is due in large part to UM’s “glorious history” in choral music and its long tradition of talented choral students and directors.

“In many ways, this is a dream job for me,” Duffy said. “Sometimes I pinch myself. Being part of the choral program at the University of Montana and getting to work in this field with these students is so incredibly rewarding.”

The choir is raising funds for all expenses related to student travel for the European tour. The public and UM alumni are invited to support the UM Chamber Chorale by sponsoring a singer, a concert or donating to the tour's fund.

For more information email Duffy at coreen.duffy@umontana.edu or call 406-243-6880. The choir also has a fundraising webpage.

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Related stories:
Donor Support Propels UM Music Building Renovations
UM Students Bring Music Education to Rural Schools
UM Choir Invited to Prestigious, International Competition

**Contact:** Coreen Duffy, UM director of choral activities, UM School of Music, 406-243-6880, correen.duffy@umontana.edu; Dave Kuntz, UM Strategic Communications director, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umotnana.edu.
UM Summer will offer a 10-week and two five-week sessions in 2022.

MISSOULA – The University of Montana again will offer courses this summer from May 23
Heat Up Your Education With UM Summer Courses

through July 29. With more than 850 available options – including over 250 online and remote courses – students can get ahead, catch up and stay on track during 10-week and two five-week sessions.

Last summer, more than 430 degrees, minors and certificates were awarded in summer, with more than 3,000 students taking advantage of summer offerings. Summer 2022 courses are available to view, and Summer 2022 registration launched Feb. 22.

“I am so lucky that I was able to take summer courses,” said Jaiden Hettick, a UM sophomore from Missoula who enjoyed UM Summer in 2021. “I decided to take two courses online to help me stay on track to graduate on time. I am a double major, so my course load is heavy, but I want to be able to enjoy my time at UM during the regular school semesters.

“Taking these two courses has helped me stay on track for graduation while opening my fall semester for fun activities, as well as work,” she said.

Hands-on summer learning opportunities are a hallmark at UM, which is surrounded by some of nature’s greatest outdoor classrooms. Students can take special topics, field courses or participate in research beyond the classroom in places like the Flathead Lake Biological Station, PEAS Farm or the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Members of the general public also are invited to enroll in classes, along with qualifying UM employees who can use the faculty and staff tuition waiver. Summer also offers noncredit opportunities, microcredentials and certificates available through UMOnline.

Additionally, Summer 2022 is a great opportunity for incoming freshmen to attend Summer Start, which allows first-year and transfer incoming students to get their education rolling early, rather than waiting until the traditional fall start.

Summer 2022 also will bring high school students from in state and out of state to participate in a pre-college program. One of these programs, Summer Exploration is an intensive, hands-on transformational learning opportunity with UM faculty members over a shared two-week experience.

“I want to tell y’all that my child truly benefited from this experience,” wrote a parent of a student who attended Summer Exploration. “They have terrible social anxiety and hate to be away from us and their home. It was such a blessing to see them meet new friends, laugh,
learn and realize that college isn’t as scary as they thought.”

The University invites everyone to join UM Summer’s Kick Off from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, on the UM Oval to meet the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region Pack Train. This is the second year the mule train will visit campus, and hosts include UM Summer, the College of Humanities and Sciences, the Department of Political Science and the University Center.

For more information about summer, including information on courses, registration, tuition, fees and pre-collegiate opportunities, visit www.umt.edu/summer or email UMSummer@mso.umt.edu.

###

**Contact:** Julie Cahill, director of UM Summer in the Office of the Provost, 406-243-5658, julie.cahill@mso.umt.edu; Becka Simons, associate director of UM Summer and Pre-College in the Office of the Provost, 406-243-5674, becka.simons@mso.umt.edu.
Ross Douthat, a conservative columnist for the New York Times, will present at UM on Wednesday, March 2.

MISSOULA – Ross Douthat, a conservative columnist for the New York Times, will present the
next installment of the President’s Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

In a return to in-person events at UM, Douthat’s lecture, “How Reaganism Became Trumpism,” will kick off at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, in the Dennison Theatre.

The lecture also will be streamed live at http://www.umt.edu/president/. Free and open to the public, the event is co-sponsored by the Project on American Democracy and Citizenship, which is managed by UM’s Mansfield Center.

Douthat has been an op-ed columnist for the New York Times since 2009, and his work appears every Tuesday and Sunday. Previously, he was senior editor at The Atlantic.

A prolific writer, Douthat has published books on the future of the Republican Party, the decline of religion in the United States, and other topics relating to politics, religion and society. His most recent book, “The Deep Places: A Memoir of Illness and Discovery,” was published in 2021 and details his struggles with chronic Lyme disease.


Douthat graduated from Harvard in 2002 and lives with his wife and four children in New Haven, Connecticut.

The UM President’s Lecture Series is presented as an opportunity to learn about and discuss ideas and issues that animate public discourse. Learn more about the President’s Lecture Series online. Sign-language interpretation will be provided for this event. To request another disability-related modification, call 406-243-4866 by Feb. 25.

###

Contact: Office of the President, UM, 406-243-2734, thepresident@umontana.edu.
NYT Columnist Slated for Next President’s Lecture at UM
Megan Andersen, a University of Montana communicative sciences and disorders major from Kalispell, volunteers for the Dream Adaptative Recreation program based in Whitefish. Helping others overcome challenges is at the heart of Andersen’s focus as UM student. UM Photo by Tommy Martino
MISSOULA – Megan Andersen didn’t talk until she 5 years old. Her family, team of doctors and host of other professionals don’t quite know why – maybe something about low muscle tone, dexterity and the development of fine and gross motor skills, as she tells it.

“I have memories of not talking,” Andersen said. “I remember it clearly – and I remember being really frustrated because I would constantly be thinking all the time. I remember the anger.”

Andersen, now a University of Montana third-year student, said it wasn’t until her little brother started talking that Andersen decided she was done being non-verbal.

“One once he started talking, I was like ‘no way is my little brother going to talk before I do,’” she said. “So, I started speaking. I guess it took getting a brother to get me to talk.”

That’s when she parlayed a good sense of sibling rivalry and years of being silent into a hard-nosed focus that has lifted her academically, professionally and personally.
Andersen, from Kalispell, was an academic star at Glacier High School. Her parents, both teachers, encouraged her to seek opportunities and challenge herself. That included a rigorous outdoors education with plenty of time outside exploring northwest Montana, skiing at Whitefish and hiking all over Glacier National Park.

She took advantage of dual-enrollment classes offered through Flathead Valley Community College and enrolled in UM as a second-year student with nearly 40 college credits already completed. When she arrived on campus, there was no question what she wanted to study.

“Speech pathology,” Andersen said. “I came here specially for this program. I'm interested in pediatric speech therapy and all of the modes of therapy available to children to help them become their best self.”

Andersen is a communicative sciences and disorders major with plans to attend graduate school for clinical training in speech development. UM’s CSD major provides students the privilege to work with individuals with developmental disorders, as well as disorders across the lifespan related to speech, language and hearing.

Graduates often seek graduate degrees in speech-language pathology and audiology in addition to medical and educational fields.

“What I like about it is that the curriculum is all about the basis for any kind of communication – speech, hearing, physical, social and behavioral – it’s all connected,” she said.

UM’s School of Speech, Language, Hearing, & Occupational Sciences, housed in the College of Health, offers several certificate programs, post-baccalaureate pathways, an accredited master’s program in speech-language pathology for clinicians and a doctoral program for researchers. In coming years, the school will offer a doctoral degree in occupational therapy. The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics estimates the employment of speech-language pathologists is projected to grow 29% in the next 10 years, with about 15,200 openings projected each year over the next decade.

Amy Glaspey, a professor of speech and hearing sciences, teaches an undergraduate class on phonetics, one of Andersen’s favorite classes thus far. Glaspey remembers Andersen having a “constant curiosity and a consistent interest and presence.”
Glaspey's class examines phonological development using a sound symbol system that provides a way to assess the way a person speaks, their sound production and where they might have difficulty when it comes to pronunciation.

Glaspey said it's not uncommon for students who have had a personal connection or experience with communication difficulty, like Andersen, to later gravitate toward the field as adults. She said the CSD major is broad by design because it provides so many avenues into different fields and areas of interest.

“The undergraduate major in communicative sciences and disorders is a springboard for a lot of amazing fields,” Glaspey said. “Many students choose to go on to specialized graduate work, and many seek opportunities in education, in health, in psychology, or as speech-language pathology or audiology assistants. The scope of work and opportunity is extensive.”

What sets UM apart, Glaspey said, is the level of faculty expertise, the small class size and the opportunity for undergraduates to seek and receive research experience. CSD seniors can complete a research-based capstone, and they have the opportunity to apply for a mentored experience by a faculty member within their respective area of research.

At UM, Andersen finds other ways to connect the dots when it comes to the varied ways people communicate and find confidence. An avid skier, Andersen volunteers with DREAM Adaptive Recreation program, based in Whitefish. The program provides year-round adaptive and inclusive recreational opportunities. Andersen volunteers through the winter, helping children and young adults learn to use their bodies in an adaptive, inclusive environment to recreate safely.

“There's an opportunity in those spaces to help people who struggle to communicate, to find confidence,” she said. “I find a lot of similarities in my communication classes when I get to work with individuals with disabilities outside. And I really like it, because it’s like watching someone overcome a perceived boundary.”

In addition to open spaces and mountains, faith also has been a founding element in Andersen’s journey. She’s active with UM’s Young Life, an organization of Christian students who share ideas on spirituality and spend time together.

“There’s a really cool community of students in Young Life,” she said. “I didn’t expect to find that here, necessarily, but I’ve found a really great group of friends, and UM kind of feels like a
second home now.”

As far as what the future might hold, Andersen said she’s focusing on the moment.

“I know I want to work with children and helping kids like me who struggled,” she said. “Kids who had a unique start when it comes to language, but who also are smart and hardworking. It’s a super interesting field with a huge impact on lives.”

###

**Contact:** Dave Kuntz, UM Strategic Communications director, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umotnana.edu
Jessica Ponce, the Pacific Islanders Club’s social media manager, joins the weekly club hula at UM’s University Center ballroom. The event has become a popular gathering for students and members of the community.
MISSOULA – When University of Montana senior Ka’au Ahina launched a campus club in 2017 for students of Pacific Island descent, the goal was simple: provide an opportunity for students like him to gather and celebrate shared traditions and one another’s company.

“When I looked around campus, I tended not to see people who looked like us,” he said. “I wanted to create a place that was both safe and sacred.”

He assumed the group would be small, what with less than 1% of the UM student population identifying as Pacific-Islander.

And then, he said, “people just started coming out.”

Today, the Pacific Islanders Club can draw up to 100 people to its events and includes a wide swath of participants of all ages, both on campus and in the community.

The club is one of nearly 200 student groups recognized by the Associated Students of UM. Students are encouraged to join these campus organizations, which represent an array of interests – from sports to music – with many of the groups receiving direct funding from ASUM.

The Pacific Islanders Club has sponsored potlucks, food demonstrations and gatherings around the winter fire pits on the Oval.
“Sundays we teach Hula and our language,” said club treasurer Isaac La’a. “The majority of the dancers are not from the Pacific Islands.” La’a, a military veteran who graduates this year with a degree in management information systems, said it’s been a rewarding experience to see the genuine interest participants have shown in knowing more about the traditions of Pacific Islanders.

“We’ve created our club for social gatherings, listen to music and eat, but people come to our space to learn,” said La’a, a native of Hawaii. “They ask a lot of questions about our language and our traditions.”

Because the learning process is often better done in person, the Pacific Islanders Club also organizes group trips to Hawaii. This past winter break, students went to three islands and spent time with the families of club members.

“It’s a great hands-on cultural experience,” said Ahina, also a Hawaiian native who graduates this spring with a degree in communications. “They actually get to see what our songs are talking about.”

Jessica Ponce, the club’s social media manager, participated in the recent winter break trip to the islands and said she looked forward to the planned volunteer activity. On this trip, the group helped feed homeless residents on New Year's Day.

“We live by the phrase ‘malama kekahi i kekahi’ which means to take care of one another. In everything we do as a club, we've navigated with the mindset of sharing our aloha, our love, our life, with everyone that comes to us,” said Ponce, who is of Filipino descent and majoring in psychology with a minor in international development studies. “Traditionally with every Pacific Tour that we've done, there's been some variation of this philanthropy work, whether it’s volunteering on a farm or again giving back to the homeless community of the island that we are on.”

The club’s student adviser, Ruth Williams, gets choked up when talking about the group, considering them “her kids,” as she puts it. She’s participated in many of their events and credits club members with decorating a drab corner of her office to give it more of an island feel.

“They expect excellence out of the executive team and club,” said Williams, a collections specialist in UM’s business office. “They are just an amazing group, and they do so much for
UM Student Club Brings Aloha to Campus and Community

the campus and community.”

Club co-founder Jolyn Tausa, a UM psychology graduate now living in her native O’ahu, said the growth of the club and the curiosity of fellow students to learn more about Pacific Island traditions has been gratifying. So, too, has been the interest from groups representing other races and cultures.

“We started out, of course, with food,” she said, “but it’s become so much more.”

Contact: Dave Kuntz, UM director of strategic communications, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA COLLEGE, FRENCHTOWN HS PARTNER TO EXPAND DUAL ENROLLMENT

15 FEBRUARY 2022
MISSOULA – Missoula College at the University of Montana and Frenchtown High School are expanding their partnership to provide high school students a running start to college.

The Bronc Fast Track General Studies Certificate Program allows high school students an opportunity to enroll dually at Missoula College and graduate with a UM certificate in general education concurrently with their high school diploma.

Jake Haynes, principal of Frenchtown High, said this is an opportunity for students to expand their reach and access into higher education.

“We are thrilled about the streamlined nature of this program, which is ultimately an accelerated path to a college degree that will save students time and money while helping to prepare them for the expectations and responsibilities of postsecondary education,” Haynes said. “It is also a great way for high school students to potentially cut a year out of their two-year or four-year degree path through a stackable approach at the University of Montana.”

He said students who pursue this program potentially could save up to $15,000 by earning credits in high school that they would normally pay during their freshman year of college.

Designed for college-bound students, the first cohort at Frenchtown has started the new 30-credit program, with the goal of securing college-level credit before graduating from high school. The college credits earned meet Montana University System core requirements and have a common core guarantee transferability to schools within the Montana University System and most institutions across the United States.

The college course requirements for this program can be earned concurrently with high school courses through a combination of concurrent enrollment or dual-credit courses taken at Frenchtown for college credit, through early college courses taken in-person or online through Missoula College or UM, or through advanced placement courses taken at Frenchtown for credit.

With flexibility in the curriculum, courses include biology, business, history, math, government, writing and a choice of several UM elective courses.

Jordan Patterson, Missoula College director of dual enrollment, is excited to expand the
already existing dual-enrollment relationship with Frenchtown High School.

“This allows Frenchtown high school students an opportunity to make a substantial head start on earning college credits at a significantly reduced cost and a chance to earn a college certificate at the same time they will be graduating from high school,” Patterson said.

The first six credits of this program are paid for through the One-Two-Free program, which encourages current Montana high school students to take two college classes for free from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

“This certificate for graduating high school students might be the first of its kind in Montana,” Missoula College Dean Tom Gallagher said. “In addition to developing core competencies for higher education, students will be exposed to critical and analytical thinking skills, professional communication, science and writing. They will be exposed to higher education earlier, and, ultimately, it would be great to see these students continue on with the University of Montana through Missoula College.

“But no matter what institution they choose to attend after high school, they will be more confident and better prepared for higher education,” he said.

###

**Contact:** Jordan Patterson, dual enrollment director, Missoula College, 406-552-8689, jordan.patterson@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA – Purchasing an engraved brick on the Centennial Circle surrounding the Grizzly Bear statue at the University of Montana cements one's relationship with UM, both literally and
figuratively.

And in the 27 years that UM has offered the brick inscriptions, we've seen a lot of requests—some poetic, others not so much. But when a recent brick order caught our eye, we knew there had to be a story behind it. It read:

"Morgan and Sam
Found Love in
A UM Elevator"

It turns out Valentine's Day is the perfect time to tell that story.

To get the skinny, we reached out to Cassie Eliasson VanAlstyne, a proud UM alumna and purchaser of said brick.

Cassie, who now lives in Colorado but hails from Roundup, said UM has played a major role in her family’s life. She fondly remembers a weekend visit her older sister made to campus some 25 years ago while Cassie was studying journalism and living in Craig Hall.

“She is five years older than me, so we didn't really connect as kids, you know?” Cassie wrote in an email. “But that visit really brought us together as friends.”

Several months later that same sister was pregnant.

“I learned that the baby was a girl in the lobby of Craig Hall after asking...
for my mail and getting a note card from my sister that simply said ‘it's a girl’ with a picture of a stork printed dot-matrix style on it,” Cassie said. “It was so exciting! My sister named her Morgan Cassandra, after her aunt Cassandra (that's me).”

That little girl would go on to follow in her aunt's steps, enrolling at UM in 2016 to study elementary education. Morgan calls herself a bit of a “rebel” for the decision to become a Griz.

“There are members of my family who went to Montana State,” she said. “I had to pick a side.”

It was as a first-year student in Jesse Hall that Morgan would meet Sam Brown, an Auburn, Washington, resident drawn to UM for its outdoor lifestyle and major in resource conservation.

The way Morgan tells it, she was living on the ninth floor of the residence hall at the time. He was on the third floor where, it happens, some of her friends also lived.

“I got along with everyone down there, and on the second day I popped into Sam’s room and invited him to a party,” Morgan recalls. “What drew me in was he had a lemon tree and his room was super organized. Not like other freshman college guys.”

“Yup, that’s about it,” said Sam, a man of fewer words, of that initial encounter.
The two became friends right away, hiking the M often and just hanging out. And then winter doldrums led to a bad case of cabin fever.

“We needed to do something different,” Morgan recalls. “We hauled two chairs in the elevator, set up some music, Sam brought a half gallon of milk, and we greeted people riding to their floors.

“Some people were really friendly,” she adds, “Some, I’m sure, thought who are these weirdos?”

Morgan and Sam rode that first day for two hours and put in several more elevator stints on following weekends. Soon they had a reputation.

“The second time, this guy got on and said ‘oh, you are the one’s riding the elevator, I heard about you,'” Morgan said.

The couple continued to date through college, and when it came time to pop the question in October 2020, Sam opted not for the elevator as a backdrop, but a rustic cabin in Condon. The couple were married June 26, 2021, at Dunrovin Ranch and today live in Missoula. Morgan works as a seventh and eighth grade teacher for Woodman School in Lolo. Sam works in GIS for onX.

They learned about the brick gift on their wedding day when Aunt Cassie presented them with
Going Up? UM Couple Finds Love in an Elevator

a letter from UM acknowledging the purchase and the inscription.

“It was such a cool and heartfelt present,” Morgan said.

Cassie admits an engraved brick isn’t the first thing that comes to mind for a wedding gift, but their families had heard the elevator story many times. The gift, she said, also reflects UM’s special place in their hearts.

Plus, anything tamer wouldn’t reflect Morgan’s and Sam’s outsized personalities.

“Maybe it’s not super appropriate for some, but those of us who grew up with ’90s rock get it,” Cassie said referring to the Grammy-nominated Aerosmith anthem. “It’s definitely not your average wedding blender or set of sheets.”

UM still sells those bricks. If you have a love story to etch in stone, learn more at https://www.umt.edu/marketing/bricks.

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**Contact:** Dave Kuntz, UM strategic communications director, 406-243-5659, dave.kuntz@umontana.edu.
UM undergraduate student Mark Spring earned the Montana Student Volunteer Award.

MISSOULA – University of Montana student Mark Spring is a volunteer who gets things done.
His commitment was recognized recently when he became one of 14 college students to receive the Montana Student Volunteer Award from the Office of the Governor and the Campus Compact board. College students across Montana invest time, energy and passion in their communities, and the award recognizes those civic contributions.

After a 35-year career in hotel management, Spring retired and took an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (MOLLI) course at UM’s Davison Honors College, studying ethical wills. This sparked an interest to enroll at UM to study gerontology. He is now a junior in the honors college, working toward a bachelor’s in multidisciplinary studies and minors in gerontology and nonprofit administration.

“I knew I wanted to be of service to people of my own generation,” Spring said. “As I started looking around at what was getting done and not getting done in the senior community, I realized what a vital role nonprofits play.”

Passionate about the social side of gerontology, Spring signed up for the nonprofit administration minor program in UM’s Department of Public Administration and Policy to find ways to pursue meaningful work in that area.

“Whether I go to work for a nonprofit or identify a need in the senior community that is not being met by a nonprofit organization or the government, I want the ability to be able to set up a nonprofit, serve that need and be effective,” Spring said. “When I leave school, I want to hit the ground running. Nonprofit administration, I believe, will make it possible for me to fulfill those goals I have in gerontology.”

Spring completed an internship with the YWCA Pathways Program for his nonprofit administration minor, dedicating himself to this position over three months.

“During his internship for the nonprofit administration minor, Mark’s work was intense,” said Ben Hamman, DPAP public education manager. “He committed himself to his position, attending every training and counseling session the YWCA offered. Mark exemplifies the value of serving the public interest, and he understands the power inherent in service and uses his passion and voice to improve the lives of others.”

During his internship at the YWCA, Spring discovered the organization had received a grant for an elder abuse office in Missoula but had not had time to set it up. Spring and a nonprofit
administration classmate were able to establish the office while also fulfilling the service-learning portion of a nonprofit course.

“Mark Spring is an exceptional student,” said Dr. Sara Rinfret, acting dean in UM’s Blewett School of Law and head of DPAP. “He goes above and beyond helping others. We are incredibly proud of his work, and this is a well-deserved award for his commitment to public service.”

Spring recently accepted a part-time elder abuse advocacy position with the YWCA that will run for the next two years. He also volunteers for the UM Basic Needs Committee, the UM Food Pantry, the Missoula Senior Center and the YWCA Abuse in Later Life program. In addition, he is president and a new board member for the UM Gerontology Society.

Spring encourages his fellow students to identify something they love, give four hours a week to it as a volunteer and see where that takes them.

“It doesn’t matter what it is, there’s always opportunity to help,” said Spring.

For more information visit the Campus Compact website at https://mtcompact.org/.

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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.
Spring in His Step: UM Student Recognized With Volunteer Award
Naomi Oreskes
MISSOULA – Renowned thought leader and Harvard Professor Naomi Oreskes will tackle the widely accepted notion that “the free market is efficient but government is not” during the next installment of the President’s Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

Her lecture and forthcoming book are titled “The Big Myth: How American Business Taught Us to Loath Government and Love the Free Market.” The free online lecture is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17. Attendees are invited to register in advance at the UM Office of the President website (https://www.umt.edu/president/). Oreskes’ talk is the UM Brennan Guth Memorial Lecture in Environmental Philosophy.

Oreskes is Harvard's Henry Charles Lea Professor of the History of Science. She is the author of nearly 200 scholarly papers and articles, and her opinion pieces have appeared in The New York Times, the Washington Post, the Times (London) and many other media outlets. Her TED talk, “Why We Should Trust Scientists,” has been viewed 1.5 million times.

Oreskes also is a leading voice arguing the reality of human-caused climate change and explaining the history of efforts to undermine climate action. Her 2004 essay in the journal Science, “The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change,” is cited frequently.

During her lecture, Oreskes will discuss how Americans have come to have an irrational and unfounded faith in the free market. She and her “The Big Myth” co-author, Erik Conway, argue that a misplaced faith in the free market is linked to many of the ills society faces today – from
the opioid epidemic and widespread obesity to homelessness and climate change.

They take on the widespread American belief that the market is efficient but the government is not, and they address how government intervention wasn’t always considered “bad” – that it wasn’t until the past century that thinkers and heads of industry promoted the idea that “markets are magic” and free enterprise capitalism is “the American way.”

Bloomsbury Press will publish “The Big Myth” in 2022. Oreskes and Conway also wrote 2010’s “Merchants of Doubt,” about how a small subset of scientists helped obscure the truth on issues such as tobacco smoke and global warming. That book was made into a documentary film translated into nine languages.

Oreskes is the author or co-author of seven books, including 2019’s “Why Trust Science?” Among her numerous awards and prizes are the 2019 Geological Society of American Mary C. Rabbitt Award, the 2019 British Academy Medal, the 2016 Stephen Schneider Award for outstanding Climate Science Communication and the 2015 Public Service Award of the Geological Society of America.

Learn more about Oreskes during a recent episode of the “A New Angle” podcast, presented by Associate Professor of Marketing Justin Angle and the UM College of Business. Her 30-minute episode is titled “Dr. Naomi Oreskes on Why We Should Trust Science.” The episode is online at https://www.anewanglepodcast.com/.

The UM President’s Lecture Series is presented as an opportunity to learn about and discuss ideas and issues that animate public discourse. Learn more about the President’s Lecture Series online.

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**Contact:** Office of the President, UM, 406-243-2734, thepresident@umontana.edu.
A new dawn at UM: The University recently earned top-tier “R1” research status.

Of the roughly 4,000 degree-granting institutions across the U.S., only 146 (about 3.7%) have achieved R1 status.
MISSOULA – In a major milestone for the University of Montana, UM is now a top-tier “R1” research institution.

The honor was conferred last week by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education organization. The University was upgraded to the “Doctoral Universities: Very High Research Activity” classification, also known as R1.

Since the Carnegie classification system was created in 1970, generations of UM administrators and researchers have striven toward the goal of achieving R1 status. Of the roughly 4,000 degree-granting institutions across the U.S., only 146 (about 3.7%) are ranked in this elite group.

“UM reaching R1 status is a great testament to the quality of our faculty, staff and students,” said Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship. “Being one of the top research universities in the country also will help us recruit new students and faculty to campus.”

The R1 classification will last for five years, and then Carnegie will reevaluate. It is possible to return to R2 status if current high standards are not maintained.

“Earning R1 validates the impressive research and hard work of many outstanding people at the University of Montana,” UM President Seth Bodnar said. “This classification puts us in good company among the top research institutions in the world. UM has become many things during its 129-year history, and now we can add to that our status as a nationally and globally known center for research. This should help us attract even more world-class faculty, as well as the
undergraduate and graduate students who will learn from them.”

Carnegie uses a variety of factors to determine whether a university qualifies for R1 status, including research spending, staffing levels to support the research enterprise and the number of doctorates awarded by the institution.

Research spending at UM has soared in recent years. The $55 million reported in fiscal year 2014 swelled to a UM-record $122 million this past year. Whittenburg said UM is the sixth-fastest growing research university in the nation, known for its work in wildlife biology, forestry, pharmacy, chemistry, climate change and more. In 2020, the vaccine research by UM’s Center for Translational Medicine landed the University on a list titled “Best Universities Solving the Coronavirus Pandemic.”

“One nice feature of the Carnegie designation is that the research dollars and doctorates are not limited to the STEM disciplines,” Whittenburg said. “Research and doctoral completion in the humanities, social sciences and other fields contributed significantly to UM’s attainment of the R1 designation.”

The Carnegie R1 calculation incorporates the total amount of funded research and the average amount funded per faculty member. Whittenburg said this means that universities with a smaller number of faculty members, such as UM, can compete with the larger schools on a level playing field.

“Our University conducts a large amount of research on a per-faculty basis,” he said.

UM chemistry Professor Mike DeGrandpre and the Missoula-based company he founded, Sunburst Sensors LLC, won a prestigious XPRIZE in 2016 by developing an accurate, affordable and durable sensor to study ocean acidification. He said the University should be proud to achieve R1 status.

“Only a handful of universities have earned the R1 classification outside of the East and West coasts,” DeGrandpre said. “This distinction is particularly impressive for our UM faculty because of the resource limitations we all have faced. UM has managed to nurture and grow research productivity against all odds, and everyone on this campus deserves credit for this success.”

Ethnobotanist Rosalyn LaPier, an associate professor of environmental studies in UM’s
College of Humanities and Sciences, is a researcher who blends traditional ecological knowledge learned from Native elders with the academic study of environmental and religious history.

“As an Indigenous scholar at UM and an alumna who got my Ph.D. here, achieving R1 status is a big deal,” LaPier said. “It means that research is central to our mission and that our students will learn from scholars who are at the top of their fields. And for our Indigenous neighbors in Montana, with whom UM continues to work closely, R1 status will only serve to strengthen those relationships and provide an avenue for prestigious graduate education for Indigenous citizens.”

Richard Bridges, a Regents Professor and director of UM’s Neuroscience Program, has watched the University’s research program grow for the past 25 years.

“It’s fulfilling to see UM reach R1 status,” Bridges said. “What I think is especially rewarding is the extent to which undergraduate students have been a part of these efforts. It is really one of the best aspects of UM: Students can pursue cutting-edge, discovery-based research in the labs of the same faculty who teach their courses. Achieving R1 status speaks to the quantity and quality of the research opportunities available to our students.”

Whittenburg has chased the dream of making the University an R1 since he arrived on campus almost a decade ago.

“What I am most excited about is the indication that our research efforts contribute to areas of national need while also helping to drive local and regional economic and workforce development,” he said. “Our R1 status will boost the economy of our region while opening up new opportunities.”

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**Contact:** Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship, 406-243-6670, scott.whittenburg@umontana.edu.
The University of Montana is the latest university to be featured on the Amazon Prime series "The College Tour."
MISSOULA – University of Montana students take center stage in the latest episode of “The College Tour,” an Emmy-nominated series that showcases college campuses through the eyes of those who know it best: the students.

UM’s 50-minute episode features 20 students sharing their diverse personal experiences as Grizzlies. The episode launches on Amazon Prime streaming services on Feb. 8 and is available on UM’s YouTube channel. UM is the first school in Montana to be featured in the series.

The cast represents in-state and out-of-state undergraduate and graduate students from several majors and student organizations, including:

- **Arwen Baxter**, a recent Rhodes Scholar finalist, musical theatre and English literature major. But she also dabbles in ecology and kayaking.

- **Grizzly soccer player Camellia Xu** is Big Sky Conference goalkeeper of the year and helped lead her team to the Big Sky Championship title in 2021.

- **Military veteran and ROTC Grizzly Battalion member Nate LaCorte** moved west from Indiana and is completing his finance degree debt-free.

- In just her sophomore year, ceramics student **Abbe Watson** is president of the Black Student Union, a UM student group founded in the 1970s.

- **Jesse Storment** started by taking her general education credits at Missoula College, and now she’s enrolled in the school’s top-ranked nursing program.

- **Addie Slanger** arrived on campus knowing she wanted to be a journalist. Now, in her senior year, she’s editor-in-chief of the Montana Kaimin.

- **Zachariah Rides at the Door** is keeping Native language and culture alive through his studies in anthropology and Native American studies, and as president of the Kyiyo Club.

- **Billings native Shea Dolan** grew up a Griz and now she’s a pharmacy student and member of the Davidson Honors College.

"We are so proud of these students for sharing their stories of creativity, courage and Griz spirit.
and we are thrilled that the University of Montana is the first Montana school in the 'The College Tour' series,” said Jenny Petty, UM vice president for marketing and communications. “This episode will give students and families all over the world the chance to see our stunning campus location and learn about life as a Griz.”

A film crew from “The College Tour” visited campus in September and filmed student segments over nine days while also collecting footage of campus, the season’s first fall home football game and scenes from downtown Missoula, the Clark Fork River, Pattee Canyon and more.

UM’s episode is included in Season 3 of “The College Tour.” Among dozens of other schools featured in the series are Arizona State University, University of Oregon, Sam Houston State and UC Davis.

"The College Tour” is the brainchild of host Alex Boylan, who was part of the winning team on the second season of the reality TV show “The Amazing Race.” With each episode of “The College Tour,” Boylan takes viewers to a different university to show what campus life is really like, told through the voices of actual students.

“The idea for ‘The College Tour’ TV series came to me from my niece. Because of the
UM Students Star in ‘The College Tour’ on Amazon Prime

pandemic and finances, she wasn’t able to travel to tour colleges,” Boylan said. “So, using our skills as executive producers we created a series inspired by her and millions of other young people who are interested in attending college.”

Find UM’s episode of the “The College Tour” on the UM website, UM’s YouTube channel, “The College Tour” website and mobile app, and Amazon Prime streaming services.

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

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Statewide
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A new study involving UM researchers helps explain why wolf kill rates drop when bears are around. (National Park Service photo)
MISSOULA – If you are a wolf living in Yellowstone National Park, bears mess with you. They show up uninvited and steal kills from your pack. And when scavenging bears drive you away from tasty carcasses, you and your fellow wolves will – strangely enough – kill less often.

The reasons for this unexpected finding are explored in a new study by researchers at the University of Montana, Yellowstone National Park, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research and others. The work was published in the scientific journal Ecological Monographs.

“In both Yellowstone and Scandinavia, previous research had shown how the presence of bears led to wolf kill rates that were lower,” said Dr. Matthew Metz, a research associate with the Yellowstone Wolf Project, who earned his doctorate in wildlife biology from UM in December. “This was exciting because it showed that wolf foraging behavior doesn't occur in a vacuum – it is affected by other apex predators on the landscape.”

This latest study delved into the competitive mechanisms that lead to decreased kill rates by wolves, and examined whether they were the same between continents.

Research has shown that larger cat species kill more often when sharing hunting grounds with bears. Bears drive them away from kill sites, and the cats are forced back to hunting, driving up their predator kill rates. Metz said this dynamic differs for wolves.

“What we did was break down the wolf foraging sequence,” he said. “We studied their searching time and their handling time – the amount of time they spend eating and digesting their kills.”

The researchers found that wolf handling times sometimes increased when bears were around, including for the wolf-bear interactions during summer in Yellowstone National Park. Aimee Tallian, a scientist with the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research and the lead author of the international study, said they suspect wolves stick around more to defend their kills, or they move back and forth from kills sites more often to avoid confrontations with bears.

Metz said wolf behavior also is greatly affected by the seasons. In winter, wolves experience less competition when bears hibernate. In the summer, wolves are denning and raising pups, which affects their foraging behavior since they must care for their young.
The primary ungulate prey of wolves – elk in Yellowstone and moose in Scandinavia – are born in large pulses in the early summer, and the presence of newborn prey drives up kill rates. However, adult prey become hardier as their nutrition improves during warmer months, and bears have emerged from hibernation to complicate matters.

The researchers studied two types of competition between bears and wolves: exploitation and interference. Tallian studied both forms in Scandinavia, and researchers focused on interference competition in Yellowstone.

Exploitation competition happens when the two species vie for the same prey in the same area. If one predator is successful, it leaves less available prey for the competitor species. Metz said this form of competition is expected to mostly occur in the early summer, when wolves and bears both hunt and kill newborn elk or moose calves.

Interference competition happens when wolves and bears actually confront one another. Usually it’s wolves killing prey and then bears sometimes stealing their kills.

With both forms of competition, the kill rates for wolves would diminish when bears were around. In this study, the researchers leveraged data about wolf foraging dynamics to decipher which form of competition was operating.

“Relatively little had been known about how bears affected the foraging dynamics of wolves,” Metz said. “Our work starts to fill in the gap by demonstrating that the dynamics do differ and provides another reminder of how changes in ecosystem complexity – in this case the presence of bears – affects the behavior of other species.”

A Cleveland native, Metz came to Montana in 2000 to earn his undergraduate degree from UM’s highly regarded Wildlife Biology program. He then used two decades of work with the Yellowstone Wolf Project to help complete his graduate work. For his doctorate, he was mentored by renowned researcher Mark Hebblewhite, a UM professor of ungulate habitat ecology in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation.

Metz said the North American portion of the data for this recent study resulted from long-term work assessing summer wolf predation from May to July. The Yellowstone work involved hiking to clusters of locations pinpointed by Global Positioning Systems on wolf collars.
“We investigated those locations for carcasses where wolves fed,” he said. “Most of the carcasses that we found were elk. At these sites, we then also documented the presence of other scavengers, including bears.”

What’s it like doing research in one of America’s most-treasured national parks?

“Northern Yellowstone is an amazing place to work,” he said. “There are mountain peaks with amazing views that let you see all the way to the Tetons on a clear day. However, we also have picked our way through miles of super-dense forest ‘regen’ resulting from the 1988 fires to search for wolf GPS locations in the absolute middle of nowhere. But the sum total of all those days over many years led to an amazing data set.”

Metz said it was exciting to work on an international research project.

“Aimee brought together teams from the Yellowstone Wolf Project, the Scandinavian Wolf Project and the Scandinavian Brown Bear Research Project,” Metz said. “This led to an incredible experience of working with and learning from researchers from the Scandinavian system.”

He and Tallian said the Scandinavian team had developed long-term data about wolf predation just like the study team in Yellowstone. Scandinavia and Yellowstone also have similar species on the landscape. But there were differences: The primary prey species for wolves in Scandinavia was not the same (moose instead of elk), bear density was lower and the landscape had been more heavily modified by humans.

“The ability to compare and contrast findings from each system was powerful,” Metz said. “Using the data from each system, as well as the collective understanding of the systems from researchers with many decades of experience, really helped us understand how the components of each ecosystem may have affected our results.”

And these results reveal some of the reasons how bears change how wolves hunt and kill, no matter which side of the globe they live on.

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Contact: Matthew Metz, research associate, Yellowstone Wolf
UM Alumni Association Launches ‘Our Environment Matters’ Lecture Series
MISSOULA – The University of Montana Alumni Association will host a lecture series dedicated to explorations of the human impact on environmental sustainability.

In its 24th year, the association’s Community Lecture Series features UM faculty members who present lectures and engage with UM alumni and community members on timely topics. Free and open to the public, the 2022 series is titled “Our Environment Matters” and features six digital lectures on Zoom and Facebook Live.

From the waters of Montana to the wildfires of the Northwest, this year’s series will showcase exciting and rich research happening at UM.

Each lecture will feature Q&A, and registration is required at bit.ly/cls-22.

The lecture schedule is:

- **Feb. 8**: “Poems from the book ‘Horsefly Dress,’” Dr. Heather Cahoon, UM associate professor and director of the American Indian Governance and Policy Institute.

- **Feb. 15**: “Can Plants Keep Pace with Climate Change?” Dr. Solomon Dobrowski, UM professor of forest landscape ecology.

- **Feb. 22**: “Shrimp, Salmon and Trout: Invasive Chowder in Flathead Lake,” Tom Bansak, associate director of the UM Flathead Lake Biological Station.

- **March 1**: “Finding Water for Farms and Fish in Montana,” Dr. Brian Chaffin, UM associate professor of water policy and governance.

- **March 8**: “Woman the Hunter,” Dr. Libby Metcalf, associate dean for UM undergraduate affairs, W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation.

- **March 15**: “It Affects All of Us: Climate Change, Wildfires and Human Health,” Dr. Katrina Mullan, UM economics associate professor.

For more information on the Community Lecture Series visit grizalum.org/events/cls or call the UM Alumni Association at 406-243-5211.
UM Alumni Association Launches ‘Our Environment Matters’ Lecture Series

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