



DATE: April 25, 2014

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Royce C. Engstrom, President

RE: Campus Report for the May 2014 Board of Regents Meeting

### STUDENT NEWS

- UM student **Mara Menahan** won a **Truman Scholarship**, a prestigious national award. Truman Scholars are selected on the basis of leadership achievements and potential in public service. Menahan, a Davidson Honors College student who majors in environmental studies and geography with minors in climate change studies and wilderness studies, is the University's 14th Truman Scholar. Fifty-nine students were selected as 2014 Truman Scholars out of 655 candidates from nearly 300 colleges and universities. In addition, Campus Compact recently honored her as a **Newman Civic Fellow**. Menahan is one of eight Montana students recognized this year. The recognition honors student leaders committed to creating lasting change in communities throughout the country. Menahan is a graduate of Helena High School. She plans to fight climate change by addressing urban sprawl through the open-space planning process.
- UM sophomore **Hope Radford** won an **Udall Scholarship**, contributing to a new No. 37 legacy by becoming the 37th Udall Scholar in the school's history. Radford is majoring in resource conservation with minors in climate change studies and international development studies. She is from Colorado Springs, CO and is a graduate of Mitchell High School. She plans a career in sustainable international agriculture.
- UM student and Afghanistan war veteran **Tristan Persico** was honored at the White House on March 18 with a **Champions of Change Award** for his work conserving Montana wilderness and helping his fellow veterans readjust to civilian life. The awards honor 14 individuals who, through innovative approaches, create opportunities for the next generation of Americans to take part in outdoor recreation and public lands conservation. Persico, a graduate of Missoula's Sentinel High School, is a full-time student studying parks, tourism and recreation management in the UM College of Forestry and Conservation.
- Missoula College culinary arts student **William Gervais** won a **bronze medal** at the American Culinary Federation Western Regional competition March 3 in Oakland, CA. Gervais competed in the one-hour category SK Student Culinarian of the Year portion against three other students selected from culinary programs in 13 Western states. He is a second-year, full-time student in the MC Culinary Arts Program, and will intern this summer at Chez Panisse in Berkeley, CA.

Office of the President

- Two UM School of Journalism students and one alumna won awards in the news category of the international 2014 Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts. Class of 2012 graduate **Jessica Murri** won first place in radio feature reporting with her piece “Taxidermy Bootcamp.” Seniors **Max Barnum** and **Dustin Askim** won third place in television feature reporting for their piece “PEAS Farm.”
- UM students **Hayden Hooker, Joel Johnson, Alan Rolph** and **Neil Bennett** won the 18th International Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl after competing against undergraduate students from 32 different universities. This is the first UM team to win the competition since 1997.

## FACULTY, STAFF, ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- **Larry Abramson**, formerly the national security correspondent for NPR in Washington, D.C., was selected as the new dean of the UM **School of Journalism** after an extended national search. He will begin his new UM duties July 1. As an educator and teacher, he has designed workshops on radio journalism and reporting ethics. His accolades include a 2007 Education Writers Association award for a series on reform efforts at Northwestern High School in Baltimore, a 2004 “Cylab” award for coverage of cybersecurity issues, a 1994 Education Writers Association award for a series on Taft High School in Chicago and a 1991 Unity Award for “Crews,” an examination of Latino gangs in New York City. Abramson holds a master’s and an undergraduate degree in comparative literature from the University of California, Berkeley.
- **Stephen Kalm**, dean of the UM **College of Visual and Performing Arts**, performed at Carnegie Hall on April 22. He performed in the Harry Partch opera “The Wayward” as part of an inventive series titled “collected stories: hero,” which was curated by Carnegie composer-in-residence David Lang.
- UM **Dining Services** Director **Mark LoParco** was awarded the 2014 International Food Management Association’s Silver Plate Award. The Silver Plate Award is an honor bestowed on an individual for a lifetime of achievements in advancing the foodservice industry. This victory for LoParco and his team in UM Dining represents international acclaim for UM. As the Silver Plate winner in the highly competitive college and university category, LoParco is eligible to win the singular 2014 Gold Plate Award, which will be presented May 19 at Union Station in Chicago.
- **Lawrence L. White Jr.**, a former University of Montana **College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences** faculty member, was named the 2014 recipient of the Montana Rural Health Initiative Franklin S. Newman Rural Health Leadership Award. White recently retired from his position as director of Western Montana AHEC at UM. White has devoted his career to the betterment of health care in western Montana, including its rural areas. Although retired, he continues his efforts to identify projects and collaborate with a vast array of partners to bring these projects to fruition.
- **Shali Zhang**, dean of the **Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library**, was awarded the American Library Association International Relations Committee’s John Ames/Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award. Zhang was recognized for her exceptional contribution to international librarianship during her professional career at local, national and international levels.

- **Paul Gladen**, an entrepreneur and co-founder of the Hellgate Venture Network, has been selected to be the director of the **Blackstone LaunchPad** at the University of Montana. Blackstone LaunchPad will help UM students jumpstart their own businesses. Gladen will work to foster connections among campus, the business community and local entrepreneurs to create an environment that nurtures young entrepreneurs and provides them the skills and network necessary to succeed. As co-founder of the Hellgate Venture Network, a 500-member networking group for entrepreneurs in the Missoula area, Gladen has strong connections with the Montana entrepreneurial community.

## ADDITIONAL CAMPUS NEWS

- Two of the most successful businessmen ever to graduate from UM will receive honorary doctorates during UM's Commencement ceremonies on May 17. **Terry Payne**, founder of Terry Payne & Co. Inc., a Missoula-based independent insurance agency, will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. **John "Jack" Poe**, former CEO and chairman of the Semtech in Camarillo, Calif., a semiconductor company, will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Business. **Governor Steve Bullock** will deliver the Commencement Address.
- UM alumna **Suzanne Moore Crocker '64** and her husband, **Bruce**, a California couple with a love for Montana and art has committed a significant portion of their estate to the **Montana Museum of Art & Culture** at the University of Montana. Their bequest will establish the Suzanne and Bruce Crocker Distinguished Director Fund, an endowment to support the salary and benefits of MMAC directors long into the future. The Crockers also are providing an annual contribution for the director's fund until their bequest is realized.
- The **Princeton Review** again named the University of Montana one of the nation's **most environmentally responsible "green colleges"**. This is the fifth consecutive year UM has made "The Princeton Review's Guide to 332 Green Colleges." The list profiles institutions of higher education in the U.S. and Canada that demonstrate notable commitments to sustainability in their academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation.
- The University of Montana received **\$5 million** to endow a **scholarship fund** for Montana students with financial need. The gift came from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The gift includes \$144,000 for scholarships to be awarded to next fall's freshmen. Twelve students will receive \$3,000 scholarships that are renewable for four years. The remainder of the gift will be placed in an endowment.
- **UM Dining Services** won the **Gold 2014 Sustainability Award**, given by the National Association of College and University Food Services. The Sustainability Awards recognize and honor member institutions each year that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the promotion and implementation of environmental sustainability, specifically as it relates to campus dining operations.
- **Ambassador Max Baucus** announced he would donate his official papers to UM's Archives and Special Collections. In addition, the **Baucus Institute for Public Policy and Service** will be established at the UM School of Law if approved by the state Board of Regents. The planned Baucus Institute for Public Policy and Service will be nonpartisan and cross-disciplinary. It will be placed at the School of Law, where Baucus was a member of the board of visitors. Baucus, along

with the entire Montana delegation at the time, was instrumental in securing federal funding for the school's last building campaign. It will include the creation of a Baucus Fellows Program, open to both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as a new lecture series.

- The Montana Board of Crime Control recently awarded the **UM Criminology Research Group (CRG)** a Certificate of Outstanding Program award to recognize its contributions to public safety, crime prevention and victim assistance to the state. The CRG is led by UM sociology faculty members **Dusten Hollist, James Burfeind, Daniel Doyle** and **Jackson Bunch** and Social Science Research Laboratory Administrator **Chuck Harris**. The current membership of the CRG includes **Patrick McKay**, sociology research associate; **Aislinn HeavyRunner-Rioux**, doctoral candidate in education leadership; Department of Sociology graduate students **Daniel Acton, Nicole Camp** and **Gabe Downy**; and sociology undergraduate students **Luke Stenslie, Murphy Moran** and **Kenneth Westphal**.
- UM alumnus **Tom Cotter** committed **\$11 million** of his estate for **academic scholarships** at UM, the largest pledge for scholarships in the history of the University. The gift is a big show of support for UM's Investing in Student Success Initiative, launched by Engstrom last summer. The gift, which is made through the University of Montana Foundation, aims to make a UM education available to more students through increased scholarship support.
- The **UM logo** recently won a **Bronze Award** during the 29th Annual Educational Advertising Awards, the largest educational advertising awards competition in the country. This year, more than 2,000 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries. The new logo was designed in-house using a team led by **Mario Schulzke**, UM assistant vice president for marketing. Input was sought from students, staff, faculty, alumni and other stakeholders. The ultimate design that was chosen was created by **Shauna Murphy**, a graphic designer with UM Printing and Graphic Services. UM also won a **Bronze Award** for its **Research View newsletter**, which highlights University accomplishments in science and scholarship and publishes twice a year. The full-color newsletter is managed by the **Office of the Vice President for Research and Creative Scholarship**, produced by **University Relations** and printed by **UM Printing and Graphic Services**.
- The **Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation** has made a **\$2.4 million gift** to the **Montana Digital Academy** at UM to launch a statewide project designed to help students avoid remedial coursework when they attend college. During the next three years, the Montana Digital Academy will test **EdReady**, a curriculum from the National Repository of Online Courses that was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Washington Foundation gift will allow Montana students to be the first in the nation to use the curriculum statewide. It is intended to help students boost their scores on commonly used placement exams so they can begin their post-secondary education without remedial help. Statewide field testing of EdReady will begin this spring, with results expected in 2015.
- UM alumnus **Earle Layser** has committed **\$1.5 million** of his estate to the **College of Forestry and Conservation**. The gift will endow a professorship in conservation biology and policy. The position will be called the Earle and Pattie Layser Endowed Distinguished Professorship in Conservation Biology and Policy.

- The UM **School of Law** received the largest outright gift in its history from **Alexander “Zander” Blewett III** and his wife, **Andy**. The **\$800,000 gift** will create the **Blewett Scholars Fund**, providing three scholarships to incoming students who have first earned bachelor’s degrees from Montana State University in Bozeman. Each scholarship will pay for half of the recipients’ School of Law tuition and be renewable for the duration of the three-year program. The first Blewett Scholars will be announced in fall 2014.
- UM has been ranked one of the top **100 Best U.S. Colleges and Universities** by The Best Schools. One university and one liberal arts college from each state was included in the ranking, with Carroll College taking Montana’s other top spot. According to The Best Schools, the rankings are based on the reputation of a school, its faculty, its dedication to a broad liberal arts education, its accreditation and its overall academic caliber compared to other institutions in the same state. UM’s ranking recognizes its size, location, academic offerings, extracurricular activities and its extensive study abroad opportunities.
- For the second year in a row, UM has been named the **No. 12 medium-sized university for producing Peace Corps volunteers**. Currently, 22 UM alumni serve with the Peace Corps worldwide. Since the first days of the Peace Corps, 811 UM alumni have traveled abroad to serve as volunteers, and this is the 10th year the University has been ranked in the top 25 volunteer-producing schools. UM is the first public university in the country to partner with the Peace Corps to offer the Peace Corps Preparatory Program.
- More than 400 UM employees recently participated in the **2013-14 Charitable Giving Campaign** by donating **\$104,550** to local charitable organizations. During the Charitable Giving Campaign, UM employees can make donations to various local organizations via one-time gifts or payroll deductions.