




The University of  
**Montana**

**Office of the President**  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812-3324

Office: (406) 243-2311  
FAX: (406) 243-2797

**DATE:** 2 May 2008  
**TO:** Board of Regents  
**FROM:** G. M. Dennison, President   
**RE:** Campus Report for the May 2008 Board of Regents' Meeting

---

- U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Treasury **Robert Kimmitt** will be the featured speaker during The University of Montana's 111th Commencement exercises Saturday, 10 May. Kimmitt is the son of the late Stan Kimmitt, a UM alumnus who became secretary of the U.S. Senate and a legendary aide to revered Montana statesman Mike Mansfield.
- The University of Montana will award an honorary doctorate to renowned educator **Firman H. "Bo" Brown** at its 2008 Commencement ceremonies. The honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree recognizes Brown's illustrious record of teaching, scholarship, and service to educational theater.
- Leaders from all Montana American Indian tribes were on campus April 19 for the groundbreaking ceremony for UM's Native American Center. The first of its kind on a U.S. university campus, the 19,900-square-foot facility will house the Native American Studies Department and American Indian Student Services offices, as well as related campus programming.
- The University of Montana broke ground for the new 27,000-square-foot Phyllis J. Washington Education Center on 2 May. The center is expected to be completed in fall 2009.
- The Corporation for National and Community Service named The University of Montana to the 2007 **President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll** with Distinction for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth. Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement.
- Environmental Studies juniors **Cleo Woelfle-Erskine**, **Shannon Kuhn**, and **Whitney Gaskill** are among 80 students from 64 colleges and universities selected as 2008 Udall Scholars. Each scholarship provides up to \$5,000 for one year. With the addition of the three 2008 Udall Scholars, UM students have received 31 of the prestigious awards.
- The Office for Civic Engagement honored eight students for their contributions to the Missoula community at the 2008 Volunteer Recognition Awards April 22. The 2008 honorees and the organizations they volunteer with were: **Joshua Birchall**, the UM Linguistics Program; **Kelly Driscoll**, Hunger Awareness Week; **Jillian Hughes**, the Ronald McDonald House Charities; **Nick Lofing**, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of Missoula; **Katie Matus**, the Poverello Center; and **Kelley Orteg**, Friends to Youth. **Treva Bittinger** with the Student Assault Resource Center and **Taylor Blakely** with the Washington Middle School Flagship program received "Outstanding Volunteer of the Year" awards.
- Senior ecology major **Thomas Basset** presented his research on spotted knapweed and native insect communities in Montana at "Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill," a Council on Undergraduate Research event held in Washington, D.C., in April.
- Junior **Bill Oram** recently received a \$3,000 sports writing scholarship from the Freedom Forum–NCAA Sports Journalism Scholarship Program. Oram is a print journalism major and will serve as the editor for the *Montana Kaimin* next year.
- ROTC Cadet **Sean Conlon**, a senior Resource and Conservation major in the College of Forestry and Conservation, has received the George C. Marshall Leadership Award recognizing top student leaders in ROTC programs nationwide. With the scholarship, Conlon attended the 2008 George C. Marshall Seminar April 14–18 at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va.

- The **Forensics Team** landed several top debate awards at the Western States Communication Association/Western Forensics Association Tournament in February in Boulder, Colo. Students **Mary Connole** and **Shivon White** were semifinalists in parliamentary debate, and **Sarah Clawson** and **Svein Newman** reached the tournament quarterfinals. Connole won first place overall in individual debate, while Newman garnered second place, **Tate Hoskins** took fourth, and White took seventh. White also earned second place in impromptu speaking.
- Accounting graduate student **Justine Milne** received a one-year appointment as a postgraduate technical assistant at the Financial Accounting Standards Board. Milne, who earned her undergraduate accounting degree from UM in 2007, will work with FASB staff and board members to research technical issues in accounting and help set industry standards.
- The Co-Teach Preschool Program, located in The University of Montana School of Education, has received recognition under rigorous new standards from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. Co-Teach is one of only three accredited programs in Montana to be approved under the new standards.
- The College of Arts and Sciences has awarded Helen and Winston Cox Educational Excellence Awards to Assistant Professor of Anthropology **Ashley McKeown** and Assistant Professor of Geosciences **Julia Baldwin**.
- Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Professor **Martin Horejsi** was one of three national educators at NASA's Current Achievement award presented to the Stardust Comet Sample Return Mission, which received the museum's 2008 Current Achievement Trophy.
- History professor emeritus **Harry Fritz** received the H.G. Merriam Award for his contributions to Montana literature at the 45th Annual Friends of the Mansfield Library Banquet.
- The Broadcast Education Association has named "Beyond the Myths: Growing Up in Montana," produced by UM Radio-Television students in courses taught by professors **Denise Dowling** and **Gita Saedi**, the best long-form student documentary in the country. The students also received an "Award of Excellence" for outstanding entries. In addition, the class of 2008 won second place in the student video competition for their program "Business: Made in Montana"; junior **Dan Boyce** won second place in the radio sports reporting competition for his story on table tennis; and junior **Greg McDonald** took third in the same category for his story on the Missoula Maulers hockey team.
- A commercial featuring assistant professor of anthropology **Kelly Dixon** won Best of Show in the electronic media category at the 2007 Montana ADDY Awards in Great Falls in February. Chisel Industries, which worked with UM students, faculty, and staff to produce The University of Montana's two-year television campaign, won six ADDY awards for the campaign.
- Dining Services Chef **Timothy Hodges** received a silver medal at the 2008 National Association of College and University Food Services Continental Regional Culinary Challenge in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, April 1.
- The ASUM Office of Transportation, the only student-run transit system in the country, has received the transportation award from the National Wildlife Federation for its innovative and effective transit system as part of the "Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming" competition. UM was one of eight schools honored from a nationwide pool of entries.