




**DATE:** 4 March 2010  
**TO:** Board of Regents  
**FROM:** G. M. Dennison, President   
**RE:** Campus Report for the March 2010 Board of Regents' Meeting

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- **George M. Dennison** will retire from the Presidency of The University of Montana on 15 August 2010, 20 years to the date he became President. President Dennison plans to research and write the history of UM.
- The University of Montana recently completed an Institutional Self-Study which in preparation for a site team visit from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in April 2010. Chaired by Professor Jim Hirstein, the Accreditation Committee consisted of subcommittees who worked with student, faculty, and administrative leaders from across the University campus and the external community.
- In November 2009, the **School of Business Administration** retained its accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business in business and accounting. The peer review site visit team identified several initiatives, including the Montana World Trade Center and Byrnes Research Seminar that demonstrate leadership and high quality continuous improvement in management education. Fewer than 600 of nearly 12,000 schools of business (less than 5% worldwide) have earned AACSB accreditation, and of these select schools only 171 (1.5%) have additional specialized accreditation for their accounting programs.
- The **School of Law** will undergo an accreditation visit from the American Bar Association in April 2010. The site visit team will engage in fact finding relating to the ABA accreditation standards, also includes a member focusing on guidelines from the American Association of Law Schools.
- **President Dennison** served as the guest editor for a special Presidential Perspective issue of the refereed scholarly journal *Innovative Higher Education*. In "Reform and Re-invention in Public Higher Education" President Dennison invited four University leaders – President Steven Sample from The University of Southern California, President Graham Spanier from The Pennsylvania State University, Chancellor William E. "Britt" Kirwan from the University System of Maryland, and President Robert Bruininks of The University of Minnesota – to explore and suggest changes needed in higher education, specifically the American research University.  
(George M. Dennison, *Innovative Higher Education*, 2009, 10.1007/s10755-009-9131-2.)
- Six students and recent graduates were awarded Fulbright U.S. Student scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year, making it one of the most successful years on record for the prestigious awards at UM: **Ian Bassingthwaight**, creative writing (Egypt); **Joshua Birchall**, linguistics (Brazil); **Sean Gibbons**, energy (Sweden); **Michael Kautz**, teaching English as a foreign language (Turkey); Ann Piersall, geography (Kyrgyz Republic); and Aaron Shulman, creative writing (Guatemala).
- 296 student-athletes posted a cumulative grade-point average of 3.06 for the 2009 fall semester. Women's golf and soccer, and men's cross country highlighted the Grizzlies' fall academic success.

- For the second straight year, The University of Montana ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the category of medium-sized universities for producing Peace Corps volunteers. There are 29 undergraduate alumni currently serving in the Peace Corps.
- **Tom Martin**, a faculty member in UM's Division of Biological Sciences and assistant leader of the U.S. Geological Survey's Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal *Science*. Martin was named a Fellow as part of the Section on Biological Sciences for his distinguished contributions to the advancement of community and population evolutionary ecology, as well as for serving in officer and advisory roles for many national organizations to advance the programs among scientists and the public.
- Professor **Beth Lo**, a member of the Department of Art and renowned artist who works in ceramics and mixed media collage, was named one of 50 United States Artist Fellow in December 2009.
- School of Law Professor **Elizabeth Kronk** is one of nine Americans selected to participate in the Environmental Justice Young Fellows Exchange program sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and U.S.-China Partnership for Environmental Law at Vermont Law School. The Program provides leadership training opportunities to 18 Chinese and American women and men who are active in environmental justice efforts.
- A six-person delegation from Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing, China, led by Zhang Guolin and Deng Chaoxi, joined UM President George Dennison, Mansfield Center Director **Terry Weidner**, Confucius Institute Co-director **Qin Jie** and representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. for the official inauguration of the **Confucius Institute at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center** on 26 January. Part of a worldwide network of sister institutions funded by the Chinese Ministry of Education, the Confucius Institute promotes Chinese language and culture education in Montana through distance learning, lectures, performances and more.
- Geosciences **Professor George Stanley**, director of UM's Paleontology Center, was appointed to serve for a second year on the review panel for the science magazine *Nature*.
- Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library Archives Photo Specialist **Mark Fritch** recently helped the U.S. Geological Survey locate "then and now" photographs from the library's Archives & Special Collections Digital Photo Project for their Glacier Park Repeat Photography Project. One of the photographs, an image of Boulder Glacier, was featured in the 14 December 2009 issue of *Newsweek*.
- Three University of Montana seniors have been named winners of the UM School of Music 2009 Concerto-Aria Competition: **Luke Juras**, trumpet, from Great Falls; **Lauren Gibson**, flute, from Mercer Island, Washington; and **Seth Quay**, piano, from Dillon. Students who received honorable mention in this year's competition are: **Luke Truman**, tuba, from Rexford; **Rachel Bucholtz**, soprano, from Selah, Washington; and **Chris Hanson**, marimba, from Proctor.