



DATE: February 7, 2014

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Royce C. Engstrom, President *Royce C Engstrom*

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

STUDENT NEWS

- **Ruth Eddy** and **Christopher Allen**, seniors in the Department of Radio-Television, were recently named among the top five winners in the nation for the radio category of the prestigious Hearst Journalism Awards. Eddy, who placed third, and Allen, who placed fifth, also received an automatic berth to the final competition, to be held in Washington, D.C. in June.
- Lady Griz player **Jordan Sullivan** was one of 10 student-athletes from across the state to receive the 2013 Montana Athletes in Service Award at the Griz-Cat football game on November 23rd. The award winners were recognized for their commitment to civic engagement and volunteerism, and the impact that their service has on their communities. In addition to her many hours of service, Sullivan is a three-time Academic All-Big Sky Conference selection.
- UM senior **Kim Ledger**, a biology major with an emphasis in ecology, won the student poster competition award in the category of Environmental Science, Sustainability and Green Technology at the annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council in New Orleans November 6-10th. Ledger, a 2010 Big Sky High School graduate, is now a Goldwater Scholar and a Davidson Honors College student. She was recognized for her research poster, "Impacts of a global invader, *Solidago canadensis*, at home and away." She plans to pursue a doctorate in ecology and continue her research in community ecology and species interactions.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

- UM wildlife conservation Professor and John J. Craighead Chair **Joel Berger** has been named a finalist for the 2014 Indianapolis Prize, the world's leading award for animal conservation. Selected from 39 nominees, Berger is one of six scientists in the running for the \$250,000 prize, which recognizes outstanding achievements on behalf of the world's most endangered species.
- Athletes, members of the military and others suffering from traumatic brain injury may benefit from research conducted by two University of Montana faculty members through a new \$300,000 grant awarded by General Electric Co. and the National Football League. GE and the NFL have announced 16 winners in the first stage of the \$20 million Head Health Challenge. UM Research Assistant Professors **Sarj Patel** and **Tom Rau** were among the challenge winners selected to speed diagnosis and improve treatment for mild traumatic brain injury.

Office of the President

- **Steve Running**, Regents Professor of Ecology, was recently ranked one of the top 20 most productive authors worldwide in remote sensing research. The ranking came out of a study published in the *Scientometrics Journal*, which analyzed citations of remote sensing research between 1991 and 2010. Of the top 20 authors, Running was ranked first in geographical influence, third in five-year citations and first in five-year citations per article.
- **Barry Kenfield**, former chief financial officer and chief operating officer of Missoula's Community Medical Center, recently accepted the position of COO of the Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana and director of the Western Montana Area Health Education Center at the University of Montana.
- Montana State Parks is in the final stages of a new five-year outdoor recreation plan that outlines goals for outdoor recreation management and conservation in the state. UM College of Forestry and Conservation Professors **Norma Nickerson**, **Wayne Freimund**, **Elizabeth Metcalf** and **Alex Metcalf** helped the planning team implement surveys and review data trends to make recommendations about activities and funding priorities.
- Lady Griz Coach **Robin Selvig** hit the 800-career-win mark on November 18th. He is one of just six active women's basketball coaches to have 800 or more wins.

ADDITIONAL CAMPUS NEWS

- U.S. Congressman Steve Daines visited the UM campus on January 21st and met with faculty and members of the Missoula business community to discuss privacy and cybersecurity issues and tour the new **Cyber Innovation Lab**.
- A UM class, *Can Giving Change the World?*, granted \$10,000 to local nonprofits on Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Davidson Honors College. The class, part of UM's **Global Leadership Initiative**, focused on awarding grants to nonprofits that operate within Missoula County and combat youth hunger or youth depression.
- The **School of Journalism** recently was ranked the ninth best college journalism program in the country in a poll by NewsPro magazine and the Radio Television Digital News Association. The magazine and professional association surveyed news professionals for their 2013 top choices of J-schools around the country, both undergraduate and graduate.
- The **Montana Museum of Art & Culture** was prominently featured on A&E Television Network's "Shipping Wars." The episode aired on December 24 and 28. The show highlighted "The Plastic Whale Project," a public art piece that MMAC presented to the Missoula community on October 17, for one afternoon only. The piece was displayed on the stage of the George and Jane Dennison Theatre on the UM campus. "More than 700 visitors viewed the whale sculpture" said MMAC Director **Barbara Koostra**.
- The **Office for Civic Engagement** teamed up with the Salvation Army and Poverello Center to meet the holiday needs of 30 families and 14 veterans during this year's Adopt-A-Family and Adopt-A-Veteran programs.
- UM's programs that prepare teachers and other P-12 school professionals recently received the highest national accreditation review since becoming a founding member of the National

Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) in 1954. This accreditation, the largest program accreditation on the UM campus, encompasses 42 professional education programs at the **Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences**. In unanimous decisions rendered this fall, UM's programs have been determined to meet all six accreditation standards with the highest scores possible, including distinction for successfully "moving to target" in Standard 6: Unit Governance and Resources. In selecting and meeting Standard 6 as the "target" for exemplary performance, NCATE recognizes the truly collaborative effort of experts across the UM campus and area P-12 school partners, all of whom are part of the largest teacher education program in the state. The Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences curriculum includes the **College of Arts and Sciences**, the **School of Business Administration**, and the **College of Visual and Performing Arts**.

- U.S. News & World Report recently released its first-ever "**Best Colleges for Veterans**" rankings, and the University of Montana, along with Montana Tech, UM Western and Montana State University, were among 234 schools nationwide on the list. Schools reported on their veteran benefits as part of the broader survey and data collection of undergraduate schools by U.S. News during spring 2013. The 234 schools in the new list scored well in terms of graduation rate, faculty resources, reputation and other markers of academic quality measured in the 2014 edition of the U.S. News Best Colleges.
- **The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library** at the University of Montana hosted "Civil War 150," a national traveling exhibition in December. By virtue of letters, personal accounts and images, visitors were able to learn how people grappled with the end of slavery, the nature of democracy and citizenship, the human toll of civil war and the role of a president in wartime. The Mansfield Library is one of 50 sites nationwide selected to host the exhibition. **Dan Flores**, UM's A.B. Hammond Professor of Western History, gave a lecture entitled "Battlefields or Nature? The Sublime Western Landscape during the Civil War Era" as part of the exhibition.
- On December 3rd, the **UM Foundation** joined a national movement to encourage giving back in our communities. #GivingTuesday, a concept originally developed by nonprofit 92nd Street Y in New York City, is a global day of giving that encourages an innovative approach to philanthropy. #GivingTuesday harnesses the power of new media to inspire people to take collaborative action to improve their local communities and give in better, smarter ways. The movement acts as a counterpoint to Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, which focus on consumerism in the days after Thanksgiving. On #GivingTuesday, UM was part of a national conversation about how philanthropy and volunteerism improve our communities.
- On November 25-26th, students from 17 Montana and Idaho high schools participated in the **48th Annual Montana Model United Nations Conference** at UM. At the conference, 353 students represented 95 of the United Nations' 193 member states, debating and writing resolutions addressing important international issues. Students participated on one of five U.N. committees. Each committee was staffed by a team of UM students from Associate Professor **Karen Adams'** Model United Nations class, a service-learning course offered by the Department of Political Science. The keynote address titled "The United Nations – Accentuate the Positive!" was delivered by UM Professor **Owen Sirrs**.
- More than 150 high school musicians from 54 regional schools took part in the **All-Star Wind Ensemble** at UM on November 16-17th. They performed with the UM Marching Band in a special pre-game performance at the Grizzly football game and performed a concert in the Dennison

Theatre. The students were selected by audition to take part in the All-Star Wind Ensemble, which was started by UM Professor **James Smart**.

- The UM **Office of International Programs** hosted a full slate of lectures, presentations and special events November 12-15th to celebrate International Education Week. Topics ranged from teaching English language abroad, Peace Corps adventures and Japanese literature to figuring out how to fund international studies.
- A recent article in a professional psychology journal recognized UM's **Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology** as one of 10 accredited programs that has "exceptionally good outcomes for its students." The article examined 233 programs accredited by the American Psychological Association, analyzing match rates for internships and pass rates on the standard psychologist licensure exam. The researchers found that the UM is among "select programs [that] appear to be value-additive during training and evidence a student body that is achieving markedly better than expected." The article, "Hidden Gems Among Clinical Psychology Training Programs," was published in the October issue of Training and Education in Professional Psychology.

ALUMNI NEWS

- Two UM Journalism alums earned Emmy Awards for their video documenting the sinking of the USS Mohawk in the Gulf of Mexico last year. **David Sirak, '92**, is the Director of News Technology at WFTV in Orlando, Florida. **Daniel Erusha, '13**, was interning with WFTV at the time of the project. The ship was sunk in the summer of 2012 as an artificial reef. Erusha videotaped the long process of preparing to sink the ship and was on hand the day the Mohawk was loaded with explosives and sunk. On that day, Erusha shot video as the ship sank and immediately prepared clips to upload for other media outlets. Sirak supervised the entire story from start to finish and submitted the work for an Emmy. He tucked a Griz pennant he calls his "good luck charm" in his suit pocket before heading to the ceremony in Miami in late November.
- **Randy Cline**, UM alumnus and superintendent of Frenchtown School District, is the recipient of the Montana Superintendent of the Year award. The award is presented by the Montana Association of School Superintendents, and is one of several honors Cline has received during his time as an educator. Cline, a native Montanan, started his teaching career in Huntley Project and obtained his Masters of Educational Leadership from the University of Montana in 1993.