



DATE: December 12, 2014

TO: Members of the Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report from the University of Montana

UM School of Law students, **Nick VandenBos** of Bozeman and **Lindsay Thane** of Missoula, recently took first place in the American Bar Association-sponsored Law School Regional Negotiation Competition. The team competed against other law schools from throughout the Northwest and western Canada, and this year additional competitors from other Rocky Mountain states and the Midwest joined the field. The UM team members, both second-year law students, advanced to the final round after earning the best score of 24 teams during the opening sessions. Under the direction of their coach **Klaus Sitte**, a UM adjunct faculty member, the team put in many long hours to prepare for the two-day competition. The VandenBos/Thane entry into the final round marks the 18th time UM teams have advanced to compete among the remaining four finalists. VandenBos became the first UM School of Law student to participant two successive years in the national competition. VandenBos and Thane will travel to Houston for the national competition in February 2015. The national competition will bring together the top teams from the U.S. and Canada. The competition is held in conjunction with the American Bar Association's Midwinter Meeting.

Two Native American graduate students at UM took home top honors for their oral research presentations at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society National Conference. **Moses Leavens**, a biochemistry and biophysics graduate student at UM and a member of the Chippewa Cree Nation, took first place for his research presentation titled "Biophysical Analysis of the Ubiquitin: Associate Domain One." **Don Belile**, a UM graduate student studying systems ecology and a member of the Oglala Sioux Nation, took second place at the conference for his research presentation titled "Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Ungulate Browsing on Willow Communities Within the Northern Range of Yellowstone National Park, U.S.A." Held annually since 1978, the AISES National Conference is a three-day event convening high school juniors and seniors, undergraduate and graduate students, teachers, workforce professionals and corporate partners, with the goal of increasing the representation of American Indians and Alaskan Natives in engineering, sciences and other related technology disciplines.

Office of the President

A project to unify UM's web presence has earned recognition as a model of efficiency from *University Business* magazine. UM is one of eight colleges that will be featured in the magazine's December 2014 issue. The Models of Efficiency program recognizes innovative approaches for streamlining higher education operations through technology and/or business process improvements. In early 2013, UM launched a new branding effort and redesigned the University's home page with in-house talent. After the home page launched, a three-person web team, made up of **Nick Shontz**, **Karl Fite** and **Kayla Pierson**, in Central IT, embarked on a project to extend consistent design and brand elements to departmental websites. The web team didn't have the resources to build every site, so they created a process that allowed departmental web managers to do most of the work. They developed a powerful support website and offered weekly help sessions with demos and hands-on development. Since launching the project last year, 153 UM websites have moved to the new template. Another 62 are in the migration process.

UM Geosciences Professor **George Stanley**, who directs the UM Paleontology Center, has been named a Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Stanley was awarded the distinction for his work in paleobiology of invertebrates, especially the evolution of reef forms. His research has clarified the evolution of reefs and of modern coral lineages. AAAS selected Stanley and 400 other members of the association to be elevated to the rank of Fellow this year. The tradition of AAAS Fellows began in 1874. AAAS was founded in 1848, and with 254 affiliated societies and academies of science serving 10 million individuals, it is the world's largest general scientific society.

Three UM Professors were named 2015 Fulbright Scholar Program awardees by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. All three teach in UM's College of Humanities and Sciences. Microbiology Professor **James Gannon** will serve as a Fulbright Scholar in Indonesia from February to July at the University of Mataram City. His project title is "Development of Institutional Capacity to Solve Mining Related Environmental Problems: A Microbial Perspective." Department of Chemistry Chair and Professor **Christopher Palmer** will conduct research in Brazil from January through May. He will be based at the University of Sao Paulo in Sao Carlos. His project is titled "Nanoparticle Sorbents to Improve Performance of Solid Phase Extraction Systems." Geosciences Associate Professor **Andrew Wilcox** will lecture and conduct research in Chile from March through June. His project, "Enhancing Graduate Education in River Processes and Investigating Disturbance and Channel Response in Chilean Mountain Rivers," will take place at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in Santiago.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UM, known as **MOLLI**, has received a \$1 million grant from The Bernard Osher Foundation. A \$950,000 endowment gift and \$50,000 in operating funds will provide current and ongoing support for the continued growth of MOLLI. UM's MOLLI is one of 119 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes located

at higher education institutions across the country. The program is a resource for adults age 50 and older who enjoy learning, connecting socially with others and having a relationship with the University. MOLLI courses are enjoyed without the pressure of grades or tests. The latest endowment gift is the second to the MOLLI program from the Osher Foundation. Foundation President Mary G. F. Bitterman notes that MOLLI's growth and success since its first gift in 2005 has been exceptional. MOLLI began in fall 2005 with two lectures, and expanded to five classes by winter 2006. Since then, the program has seen record growth, and during the current fall semester MOLLI offered 23 classes for 930 participants.

UM students studying big data have a new tool coming their way. The IBM Power Systems Organization recently granted a scale-out POWER8 processor-based server to the University, which will allow UM students to run IBM InfoSphere Streams software on a state-of-the-art platform that will aid student learning. The grant was part of IBM's Shared University Research Awards, a competitive, worldwide, equipment award program designed to promote research in areas of mutual value and interest to IBM and universities. UM leads the country in teaching IBM InfoSphere Streams software at the undergraduate level. IBM's donation will be used by UM students and faculty members. In exchange, UM will provide IBM with instructional materials for teaching the InfoSphere Streams programming language.