



DATE: September 1, 2015

TO: Montana Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report for the September 2015 BOR Meeting

- The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) recently ranked UM number 585 out of universities worldwide, placing UM in the **top 2.4 percent** of more than 25,000 degree-granting institutions of higher education. UM jumped 21 spots from its No. 604 ranking in 2014. The CWUR uses eight indicators to identify the world's top 1,000 universities: quality of education, alumni employment, quality of faculty, publications, influence, citations, broad impact and patents. CWUR publishes the only global university ranking that measures the quality of education and training of students, as well as the prestige of faculty and quality of their research, without relying on surveys and university data submissions. UM is among 936 institutions in the country to be featured in the 2015 rankings, and was ranked number 174 nationally.
- The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) recently placed UM among the **top 500 universities in the world**. UM has made the list every year of the study, which began in 2003. For the 13th year, UM has ranked between 301 and 400 in the study. UM is among 125 institutions in the country to be featured in the 2015 rankings, and was ranked between 103 and 125 nationally.
- UM again made the annual list of **top four-year colleges and universities in North America**, published by the Princeton Review. The rankings are based on surveys of 136,000 students nationwide. The 80-question survey asked students about academics, administration, campus life and the student body. Annually published since 1992, the annual Princeton Review ranking includes detailed profiles of each school and ratings in a variety of areas, such as academics, campus life and tuition and aid.
- The research enterprise at UM received nearly **\$83 million in research awards** during fiscal year 2015 – an all-time record for the institution. The total of \$82,964,694 surpassed the previous awards record of \$71 million set in 2009. UM research expenditures are up 11 percent, vaulting from \$58.3 million in fiscal year 2014 to \$64.6 million in 2015. The growth in federal support at the University spans several federal agencies, including \$15 million from the federal Department of Labor, \$10.3 million from the National Institutes of Health, \$8.9 million from the National Science Foundation, \$4.7 million from the Army Corps of Engineers, \$4.3 million from NASA, \$4.1 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, \$3.8 million from the Department of Defense and \$1.8 million from the Department of the Interior.

Office of the President

- UM had another remarkable fundraising year, totaling **\$52.6 million** for the 2015 fiscal year. UM received cash gifts, pledges, estate gifts and private grants from 14,272 individuals, corporations and private foundations nationwide. Earlier this year, in recognition of its outstanding fundraising efforts, the **UM Foundation** received an Educational Fundraising Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) for overall improvement in its fundraising performance. CASE is an international association of educational institutions and has recognized exceptional development programs with this award each year since 1959. Through the UM Foundation, donors provide support for areas across campus, including substantial funding for scholarships and awards. Donors this year supported classroom technology, faculty research, facilities improvements, student programs and more. Transformational gifts to the School of Law and Grizzly Athletics are just a few highlights among this year's many notable contributions.
- Four outstanding UM graduates will receive 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards during Homecoming weekend festivities September 25-26. The awards are the highest honor presented by UM's Alumni Association. This year's distinguished alumni are **John Grotzinger**, M.S. '81, **Jennifer F. Isern** '89, **Sheila M. Stearns** '68, M.A. '69, Ed.D. '83, and **Sidney R. Thomas**, J.D. '78. Grotzinger, who received a master's degree in geology at UM, is the mission leader and project scientist for NASA's Mars Science Laboratory Mission and the Fletcher Jones Professor of Geology at California Institute of Technology. He has conducted field research on every continent except Antarctica and now directs a team of more than 400 scientists as they explore Mars via the Curiosity rover. Isern, who received a bachelor's degree in political science from UM, is senior manager with the Finance and Markets Global Practice in the Asia Pacific region for the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation. With 27 years of international finance experience across more than 65 countries, she is a global expert in financial sector development, including access to finance for the poorest populations. Stearns, who earned a bachelor's degree in English, master's degree in history and doctorate of education at UM, was Montana's longest-serving commissioner of higher education and is a highly respected advocate for educational opportunity. As a vice president of the University of Montana, she led the external relations of the University, including legislative, alumni and foundation relations. As chancellor of the University of Montana-Western for nearly a decade, she oversaw a complete transformation of curriculum from the typical semester structure to the only block scheduling program offered by a public college in the country. Thomas, who earned a juris doctorate at UM, is chief judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the largest judicial circuit in the country. The third Montanan to serve as chief judge in the history of the Ninth Circuit, Thomas is the administrator for Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, California, Arizona, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. He was nominated to serve as a judge on the Ninth Circuit by President Clinton in 1995 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1996.
- **James "Jim" Elser**, an internationally renowned freshwater ecologist, will become the next director of UM's century-old **Flathead Lake Biological Station**. Elser, a lake ecologist who serves as a Regents' Professor at Arizona State University, was selected for the position after an extensive international search. Elser will begin his new duties Dec. 1, though he will not be in residence at the bio station until March 1, 2016. He

will succeed **Jack Stanford**, who plans to retire in June after serving the University for 44 years. In addition to being on the ASU School of Life Sciences faculty, Elser is a distinguished sustainability scientist in ASU's Global Institute of Sustainability; president of the world's largest water-science society, the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography; is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and holds an active membership with the Ecological Society of America. Elser is a highly acclaimed scholar who has won numerous awards, including Fulbright Scholar (twice), ASU Professor of the Year by the ASU Parents' Association, foreign member of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters and the G.E. Hutchinson Award, ASLO's most prestigious award for research accomplishment. He has been published more than 220 times in prestigious scientific journals and co-wrote the highly regarded book "Ecological Stoichiometry". He has studied freshwater ecosystems around the world, has broad research interests, and brings extensive experience in community ecology and nutrient dynamics, which are areas of importance and the focus of much previous bio station work on Flathead Lake. Elser earned his bachelor's degree in biology from University of Notre Dame, his master's in ecology from the University of Tennessee and his doctorate in ecology from the University of California, Davis.

- UM's **Wildlife Biology Program** has named **Chad Bishop** as its new director. Bishop, who previously served as assistant director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, takes over from interim director Winsor Lowe on Aug. 1. Bishop has a bachelor's degree in biology from Montana State University, a master's degree in wildlife resources from the University of Idaho and a doctorate in wildlife biology from Colorado State University. At Colorado Parks and Wildlife, he oversaw statewide terrestrial and aquatic biology programs, as well as the acquisition and management of land and water assets. Before serving as assistant director, he worked as a mammals research leader and an ungulate research scientist with the agency. A collaboration among faculty in the College of Forestry and Conservation, Division of Biological Sciences and the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, UM's Wildlife Biology Program is one of the nation's top-ranked and gives students an interdisciplinary approach to wildlife science and conservation.
- The Association of International Education Administrators recently selected UM **Associate Provost for Global Century Education Paulo Zagalo-Melo** as one of its Presidential Fellows, a highly prestigious program of mentorship for new senior international officers. Zagalo-Melo will be paired with a mentor, whom he will shadow while learning about their institution. The program offers a unique opportunity to immerse briefly in the day-to-day activities of the host institution, establish a relationship with a mentor and other administrators and faculty, maximizing learning opportunities. Throughout the academic year, Zagalo-Melo will be able to consult with his mentor. He also will have the opportunity to observe how an experienced senior international officer and his or her institution address international education challenges and solve problems; learn about national and international issues and how they affect individual campuses; and become a member of a national network of Fellows who serve as resources throughout one's career. Zagalo-Melo will work with AIEA President Darla Deardorff to find a mentor who offers the best fit. They will take into consideration Zagalo-Melo's role at UM, UM's key strategic issues regarding internationalization, UM's size, location and type of institution.

- **UM Dining Director Mark LoParco** recently received an award for his leadership and contributions to the National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS) and the collegiate foodservice industry at large. The Richard Lichtenfelt Award – named for NACUFS' first president – recognizes outstanding service to the association on a national level. The 2015 Richard Lichtenfelt Award is the third industry distinction bestowed upon LoParco in a year's time. In 2014, LoParco became the first presiding NACUFS president to win the International Foodservice Manufacturers Association Silver Plate Award in the Colleges and Universities category. He also was awarded the Doctorate of Foodservice Award by the North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers in February. LoParco has served as the director of UM Dining for 23 years. He has been actively involved in NACUFS since 1986.
- **UM Executive Chef Patrick Browne, Executive Sous Chef Tony Martinez, Chef de Cuisine Nate Jerrell, and Pastry Chef Lindsay Marshall** proved they can out-cook the competition at the 21st Annual Tastes of the World Chef Culinary Conference hosted by the University of Massachusetts Amherst in June. UM Dining's culinary team won a silver medal after facing off against 22 other culinary teams from across the United States and Canada.
- The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) recently recognized **UM Professor Cara Nelson** for her contributions to the field of restoration by giving her its John Rieger Award. Named for the Society's first president, the John Rieger Award acknowledges those who have dedicated their time and skills to advancing the science and/or practice of ecological restoration through the development of SER. Nelson, who directs the **Ecological Restoration Program** at UM, serves as vice-chair of the society and has been a member for the past eight years. SER is an international organization with members from more than 70 countries who are engaged in the repair and recovery of degraded ecosystems.
- **UM's English Department Chair, Professor Beverly Chin**, has been named the winner of the 2015 Richard W. Halle Award for Outstanding Middle Level Educator, given by the National Council of Teachers of English. Established in 1996, the Halle Award honors an educator who has worked to promote understanding of the developmental needs and characteristics of young adolescents, especially in the English language arts. Chin is a past president of NCTE and former board member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She also served as the senior project consultant for the 2011 Writing Framework for National Assessment of Educational Progress. In 2012, Chin received the NCTE Distinguished Service Award. Since 1981, she has directed the English Teaching Program at UM. Chin received the University's Distinguished Teacher Award in 1987. Chin has more than 35 years of experience as an English language arts teacher, adult education instructor and teacher educator. She consults nationally and internationally on English language arts standards, curriculum, instruction and assessment.
- **UM Research Professors Sarj Patel and Tom Rau** were among six final winners nationally to receive \$500,000 from the Head Health Challenge I, an up-to-\$10 million program sponsored by General Electric Co. and the National Football League. The goal of the Head Health Challenge is to improve the safety of athletes, members of the military and society overall. The winners were selected from an initial group of 16

challenge winners who were chosen from more than 400 entries from 27 countries. As part of the initial group, the UM research team was awarded \$300,000 in 2014. For the past year, they were provided mentorship and access to GE researchers and industry leaders. Patel and Rau conduct research at UM's **Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy**. Their team, which includes senior staff scientists **Diane Brooks, Eric Wohlgehausen** and **Fred Rhoderick**, are working to discover blood-based biomarkers that indicate how the brain reacts following a traumatic brain injury. The first phases of their research have shown that TBI results in changes in how the brain operates and in levels of proteins and micro-ribonucleic acids. Identifying specific biomarkers will show how TBI changes the brain and could help doctors with diagnosis and treatment. The first award allowed the researchers to immediately begin identifying injury biomarkers occurring in the brains of athletes or military personnel. The researchers collaborated with UM's Department of Athletics to collect samples from UM football and soccer athletes. The current \$500,000 award will allow for expanded testing that aims to clinically validate the research. Launched in March 2013, the Head Health Challenge is part of the Head Health Initiative, a four-year, \$60 million collaboration between GE and the NFL. The initiative includes a \$40 million research and development program from the NFL and GE to evaluate and develop next-generation imaging technologies to improve diagnosis that would allow for targeting treatment therapy for patients with mild traumatic brain injury.

- **UM School of Journalism Professor Jason Begay** has been elected President of the Native American Journalists Association. Begay, a Navajo from Gallup, New Mexico, and a UM alumnus, joined the UM faculty in 2010. He serves as Native American projects director at the School of Journalism and co-teaches UM's award-winning Native News Honors Project. He also oversees Reznet, a Native American news, information, and entertainment website. NAJA launched in 1984 to address challenges faced by American Indian journalists and to foster educational and professional opportunities for indigenous members of the media. Before graduating from the School of Journalism in 2002, Begay received NAJA scholarships and mentoring from organization members. Such support helped pave the way for a series of professional successes, including an internship with The New York Times and reporting for The Oregonian and The Navajo Times.
- **UM Professor Teresa Beed**, who has taught accounting in the UM's **School of Business Administration** for more than 35 years, was recently awarded the Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants' (MSCPA) highest honor. The association presented the 2015 George D. Anderson Distinguished Service Award to Professor Beed at its 102nd annual conference in June. The award is given annually to a member of MSCPA whose contribution to the accounting profession and involvement in community, charitable and civic activities merit the society's outstanding recognition. Beed, who was born and raised in Wolf Point, came to Missoula for the first time when she began college. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from UM and taught at her alma mater for four years before earning her doctorate from the University of Colorado Boulder. She returned to UM in 1980 and estimates she has taught between 5,000 and 7,000 students over the past 35 years.

- Gov. Steve Bullock joined Missoula Mayor John Engen on Aug. 27 in Missoula to hand out Montana Innovator Awards. The **Energy Technology Program at Missoula College** was among six entities recognized for its contributions to the state of Montana in an effort to “put the squeeze on climate change.” Under the leadership of **Professor Bradley Layton**, the Energy Technology Program introduces students to the full suite of energy systems and technologies – traditional and renewable – and prepares them for careers in the rapidly expanding energy industry. Layton, his students and his alumni are working with local industries and inventors on renewable energy technologies and carbon pollution mitigation strategies.
- **Sunburst Sensors LLC**, a company resulting from UM research, **won \$1.5 million in XPRIZE funding** for producing the best device to affordably, accurately, and efficiently measure ocean chemistry. The Missoula team won two \$750,000 grand prizes – one for affordability and one for accuracy – during the \$2 million Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE competition. The Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE competition challenged teams of engineers, scientists and innovators worldwide to create a precise pH sensor that would measure ocean chemistry from its shallowest waters to deepest depths. The competition was designed to incentivize creation of these sensors for the study and monitoring of ocean acidification’s impact on marine ecosystems and ocean health, driving the industry forward by providing the data needed to take action and produce results. Sunburst Sensors employs nine people. Company CEO James Beck said the winning device sucks in sea water, puts in a dye that changes color depending on the water’s pH – much like litmus paper – and then shines a light through the dye. The resulting color of the water reveals the acidity.
- UM’s **Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana** was one of 32 awardees nationally to receive a \$1.7 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the grant is to strengthen the primary health care workforce while improving health care delivery and outcomes in rural and underserved areas of Montana. The grant funding will provide training and team-building activities for both the residency program and partner hospitals in developing sustainable health care teams and transforming health care delivery. This five-year, primary-care “Team Training for Transformation” grant will focus on training and engaging local teams to promote integrated, coordinated health care, improving patient experience, optimizing the use of information technology and improving health care performance at a lower cost. The ultimate goal is to enhance the health of local populations through a collaborative effort between rural communities and FMRWM.
- Low-income and first-generation college students, as well as students with documented disabilities, will continue to receive crucial college prep assistance through 2020 thanks to a renewed grant to fund the **TRiO Student Support Services** program at UM. **Darlene Samson**, director of UM’s TRiO SSS program, recently received a letter from the office of U.S. Sen. Jon Tester confirming the program received more than \$2 million in funding for the next five years. TRiO SSS is a U.S. Department of Education-funded program that serves students attending a four-year college. The program’s main goal is to increase the rate of participants graduating from college with a bachelor’s degree. It is a component of eight federal TRiO Programs, designed to identify and provide services for individuals from

disadvantaged backgrounds. All Montana programs had their funding renewed. More than 2,000 students will have an opportunity to participate in TRiO SSS programs. Annual funding of combined Student Support Services will bring about \$4 million to support post-secondary education in the state of Montana.

- **Bitterroot College** (BC) opened its new location in Hamilton on August 18. The new location – in the Westview Building known for its expansive views of the Bitterroot Mountains – is owned by the Hamilton School District. BC and the Hamilton School District partnered to upgrade and remodel much of the 1960s-era building as part of the lease agreement. The college's new 17,000-square-foot space is more than three times the size of the college's former location and allows for an expanded computer lab, science lab, art studio, learning center and multiple small lecture classrooms. BC will share part of its new space with the building's two other tenants, Ravalli County Early Head Start and Hamilton High School's Alternative Learning Center.
- The new **Master of Education in Early Childhood Education**, offered by the **Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences**, recently ranked 10th in SuperScholar's "50 Best Online Master's in Early Childhood Education Programs." SuperScholar based its Smart Choice rankings on national accreditation, affordability of the program, college and university reputation, and flexibility in course scheduling and offerings. The only degree of its kind in Montana, this program will serve to benefit the state's youngest populations and those who work with them. The coursework will be delivered in an online format to create a readily accessible master's degree option for current teachers and other human-service professionals to prepare them for emerging needs in the workforce.