




The University of
Montana

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DATE: 6 February 2009
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: G. M. Dennison, President 
RE: Campus Report for the March 2009 Board of Regents' Meeting

- The University of Montana received the 2008 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. UM was one of 68 public institutions to receive the 2008 Community Engagement Classification in the Curricular Engagement and Outreach & Partnerships category.
- The University of Montana is 10th among medium-sized colleges and universities in producing Peace Corps volunteers. UM has 30 alumni serving in the Peace Corps.
- Senior **Natalie Neumann** captured eighth place in the radio features competition of the William Randolph Hearst Foundation's Journalism Awards Program. The award is Neumann's second from the Hearst program, known as the "college Pulitzers."
- The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History will feature UM Anthropology Professor **Ashley McKeown**'s research on skeletons of early 17th-century Jamestown, Va., colonists in an exhibition running through 6 February 2011.
- Following a weeklong Washington, D.C., seminar featuring the nation's leading journalists and members of Congress, a group of 14 UM students, led by Political Science Professor **Robert Saldin**, attended the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States on 20 January.
- Psychology Professor **David Schuldberg** assisted the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in developing criteria for the agency's new national evaluation contract. Schuldberg's recommendations will impact how hundreds of federal grants are evaluated annually.
- The **Radio-Television Department**'s student documentary "Dear Mom" received a bronze world medal in the student category of the New York Festivals International Film and Video Awards. The hour-long film profiles four Montana mothers serving time in the state corrections system for crimes related to drug abuse and looks at the impact on the women's families.
- The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences highlighted research by Division of Biological Studies faculty affiliate **Chris Filardi**, whose work describes how white eyes, a type of bird, form species faster than any other known bird.
- The University and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula have formed a partnership to create academic and public opportunities for the study of American history through distance learning, fieldwork, internships, exhibits, and lectures.
- President Dennison and the Office of Enrollment Services hosted an outreach event in Browning on 26 January involving 40 UM alumni.
- The UM **Cheer Squad** placed second in the nationally televised cheerleading competition "Paula Abdul's RAH! Cheerleading Bowl," which aired 3 January on MTV. UM cheerleaders flew to New York City in November to film at the New Balance Track and Field Center.
- UM's mascot, **Monte**, won third place at the Universal Cheer Association/Universal Dance Association National Championships. The two-time National Champion Mascot of the Year traveled to Florida with the top five mascots to present a 90-second skit showcasing his abilities.
- Through its 13th annual Adopt-A-Family program and its first Adopt-A-Veteran program, the University community provided food and gifts to 36 families and 15 veterans over the holiday season.