



DATE: October 21, 2011
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Royce C. Engstrom, President *Royce C Engstrom*
RE: Campus Report for the November 2011 Board of Regents Meeting

- The Payne Family Native American Center has received LEED Platinum status, the highest level of certification awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council for achieving sustainable building standards. The Center is the first building on campus to achieve LEED Platinum certification.
- The Administration for Children and Families awarded a \$3.2 million grant to the National Native Children's Trauma Center and its partners for cutting-edge research on the problems of child abuse and neglect in Indian Country. The work will benefit at least three reservations in Montana during the next three years, bring pilot programs to three more reservations elsewhere in the nation, and ultimately serve as a model for similar work throughout Indian Country.
- The Big Sky Brain Project, a collaboration between the Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience and spectrUM Discovery Area, recently received a five-year, \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund a neuroscience learning center called the Brainzone that will feature four hands-on exhibits, a computer lab, and a working laboratory aimed at increasing science literacy and interest among K-12 students.
- College of Forestry and Conservation professors **Woodam Chung, Christopher Keyes, and Tyron Venn** received a \$1.1 million U.S. Department of Agriculture grant as part of a research team investigating how to turn forest biomass into an alternative energy feedstock. The project, part of the U.S. Forest Service's Biomass Research and Development Initiative, involves four universities, four Forest Service units and six private companies.
- The University of Montana and its Bureau of Business and Economic Research will receive \$500,000 during the next five years to conduct logging-use studies in the Pacific Northwest. The project is part of a \$40 million grant awarded to the Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance, a group trying to make wood-based jet fuel and petrochemical substitutes economically viable.
- UM-based Montana Public Radio recently received a grant of \$145,000 from the Murdock Charitable Trust with a challenge to raise an additional \$25,000 in community donations. The grant will help MTPR fund its Signal Improvement Project, which aims to expand and improve its coverage area in northwestern Montana, upgrade the Missoula studios with new digital networking and production equipment, and improve the local Missoula signal.
- Fall Semester 2011 enrollment set another record at 15,669, 27 more than the previous record set a year ago. Most of the increase was at UM's College of Technology in Missoula and the Bitterroot College Program in Hamilton, which together saw a headcount enrollment surge of 359.
- Summer Semester 2011 also set a record for full-time equivalent students taking courses. FTEs hit 1,430.77 this past summer, 4.77 higher than a year ago. Total headcount enrollment this summer was 4,113, down 64 from Summer 2010.
- The Department of Physics and Astronomy celebrated its 100th anniversary in September with a research conference, reception, and observing night.
- Wildlife Biology Professor **Dave Naugle** recently received a 2011 Secretary's Honor Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for his work on the agency's major sage grouse conservation initiative.

- Chemistry Professor **Mike DeGrandpre** and his partners have been awarded a \$926,000 National Science Foundation grant to fund placement of carbon dioxide and pH sensors in the perennially ice-covered portion of the Arctic Ocean.
- Six UM students and recent grads received Fulbright U.S. Student scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year: **Loretta Baker**; environmental studies, Argentina; **Zachary Carlsen**, English as a foreign language, Turkey; **Jerilynn Jackson**, English as a foreign language, Turkey; **Doron Nadler**, creative writing, Israel; **Alexander Smith**, forestry, Nepal; and **Ashleen Williams**, English as a foreign language, Bahrain.
- Four outstanding UM graduates received 2011 Distinguished Alumni Awards, the Alumni Association's highest honor, during Homecoming weekend festivities this year. This year's distinguished alumni are wildlife biologist **Thomas Dahmer**, federal judge **Jack Shanstrom**, actor **J.K. Simmons**, and economist **Brian Wesbury**.
- The University of Montana recently received a five-year, \$9.9 million grant from the National Center for Research Resources of the National Institutes of Health to fund research on physiological processes and diseases from the standpoint of atomic structure, chemistry and physics at the Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics.
- Regents Professor Emeritus **Fred Allendorf** recently received the American Fisheries Society's 2011 Award of Excellence, one of the organization's most prestigious, for original and outstanding contributions to fisheries and aquatic biology. Allendorf, who still teaches in UM's Division of Biological Sciences, was chosen in recognition of his contributions to fisheries science in applying genetic principles to conservation and management.
- University of Montana researchers are teaming up with K-12 teachers of the Montana Geographic Alliance to develop and test middle school curriculum designed to illuminate cultural and environmental changes in North America while simultaneously teaching students cyber-based skills. The National Science Foundation recently funded the project with a \$250,000 grant from its Cyberinfrastructure Training, Education, Advancement and Mentoring for Our 21st Century Workforce program. The grant was awarded to Geography faculty affiliate **Heather Almquist**, Geography Associate Professor **Sarah Halvorson**, and Curriculum and Instruction Professor **Lisa Blank**.
- UM will participate in the Institute of International Education's 2012 India initiative, part of its International Academic Partnership Program to foster higher education ties with India. Over the next year, UM will engage in a series of training activities arranged by the Institute to help implement and sustain partnerships with Indian institutions, culminating with a study tour to India in early 2012 to meet with potential partner campuses and leaders in the Indian higher education system.

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