



The University of
Montana

Office of the President
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812-3324

Office: (406) 243-2311
FAX: (406) 243-2797

DATE: February 3, 2012

TO: Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report for the March 2012 Board of Regents Meeting

- Former ASUM President **Ashleen Williams** is UM's first Mitchell Scholar. Currently a U.S. Fulbright English teaching assistant in Bahrain, Williams will study peace and conflict studies at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland during the 2012-13 academic year. Williams graduated from UM in 2011 as a University Scholar with a degree in political science.
- For the second year in a row, UM ranks 14th among medium-sized colleges and universities for producing Peace Corps volunteers. Currently, 32 UM undergraduate alumni serve as Peace Corps volunteers. Historically, 780 UM alumni have served as Peace Corps volunteers.
- UM recently created its first Retirees' Association. The association will provide all UM retirees the opportunity to remain involved with the University community through a variety of specially designed activities, events, and service opportunities. The association is in the process of developing a set of bylaws and will elect its first set of officers in the next two months.
- Curry Health Center physician **Dr. Carla Fritz** served as medical staff at the 2012 Winter Youth Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria. Fritz, who is board-certified in family and sports medicine, treated sports injuries and illness for the U.S. team, coaches, and support staff at various venues throughout western Austria. The medical team for the United States Olympic Committee chose Fritz because of her outstanding work as a volunteer team physician for the U.S. junior weight lifting team.
- Music Associate Professor **Charles Nichols** was a finalist in the 2011 International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition and will be honored by the National Academy of Music with a diploma in music composition. Nichols submitted his composition, "The Blues is Crying," into the advanced level of the competition, which required the piece to be of concert-venue quality.
- Composition and music technology senior **Ben Murphy** earned first place in the young artist division of the Music Teachers National Association composition competition. The award is one of the most prestigious national music awards given to university students in the United States.
- Radio-television senior **Emily Foster** earned ninth place in the television features category of the national Hearst Journalism Awards. Foster's stories originally aired on "UM News," a program produced by journalism students highlighting happenings on campus that airs weekly on KPAX in Missoula and other Montana News Station outlets.
- **Gus Chambers**, a television producer at the Broadcast Media Center and MontanaPBS, received a Programming Excellence Award from American Public Television for his documentary "Glacier Park's Night of the Grizzlies."
- Graduate student **Erik Samsoe** took first place in the interactive category of the North American Cartographic Information Society's Student Dynamic Map Competition for his interactive campus map. A beta version of the map is available at <http://beta.umt.edu/map/>.
- Missoula's Sustainable Business Council has named Environmental Studies Professor **Vicki Watson** its Sustainability Advocate of the Year. The award honors Watson for her longtime commitment to various sustainability initiatives.
- Journalism junior **Billie Loewen** took third place in the feature writing category of the national Hearst Journalism Awards. She received a \$1,500 prize, and the School of Journalism received a matching award. Her showing puts the UM journalism school in third place in the year-long print competition.

- The U.S. State Department awarded the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center a \$400,000 grant to fund the Women's Empowerment Project, which will send 20 Montana women to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. In exchange, 20 women from these countries will be placed in nonprofit organizations and government offices in Montana to learn how issues in their fields are addressed in the U.S.
- Thirty students in **Garry Kerr's** Fall 2011 Introduction to Anthropology course were among the winners of the Public Anthropology Award, presented by the Center for a Public Anthropology. Kerr was also honored for showcasing the ability of students to learn effective writing skills while being active global citizens.
- Professor **Jack Stanford** has received two prestigious awards for his work. The International Society for River Science recognized his 40 years of research and contributions to river ecology by awarding him its Lifetime Achievement Award in July, and in August the Federation of Fly Fishers presented him with the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award for his scholarship in ecosystem science.
- The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center appointed **Kimberly Maynard** as its first Mansfield Fellow in International Affairs. Maynard is an internationally recognized consultant, teacher, and researcher on problems of international development, humanitarian and emergency relief assistance, and national transitions from situations of conflict to stability and peace. She started her duties on Nov. 1.
- UM received a five-year, \$1.25 million grant to provide in-depth preparation and training for special education teachers in the state. The grant will fund a collaborative project of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and the Rural Institute on Disabilities called Training Teachers to Ensure Achievement and Membership for Children and Youth with Low Incidence Disabilities.
- The Bureau of Business and Economic Research earned three national Awards of Excellence in Publications from the Association for University Business and Economic Research for the *Montana Business Quarterly*, the *Montana Kids Count Data Book*, and the *Montana Manufacturers Survey*.
- The Montana World Trade Center recently received a \$298,814 grant to support its National Export Initiative Support Project, a private-public partnership intended to help Montana businesses increase exports of quality products and services worldwide. The grant was awarded by the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration to boost job-creating exports in Montana.

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