



DATE: August 22, 2014

TO: Members of the Montana Board of Regents

FROM: Royce C. Engstrom, President

RE: Campus Report for the September 2014 BOR Meeting

STUDENT NEWS

- UM junior **Mona Schwartz** is the 2014 recipient of the J. Stanley Kimmitt Public Service Internship. Schwartz, who majors in political science with a double minor in international development studies and Latin American studies, served as a summer intern for U.S. Sen. Jon Tester. The internship is a public service opportunity for UM students established to honor J. Stanley Kimmitt, former secretary of the U.S. Senate and aide to Sen. Mike Mansfield and includes a \$3,000 stipend. It rotates among all three members of the Montana congressional delegation.
- Two UM students spent their summer abroad, undertaking intensive language and cultural training as part of the U.S. Department of State Critical Languages Scholarship (CLS) Program. UM seniors **Morgan Azeka** and **Kyle Koslosky** are among 550 U.S. university students selected to participate in the CLS Program. They spent 10 weeks studying overseas through an all-expenses-paid scholarship. Azeka studied Arabic in Nizwa, Oman and Koslosky studied Japanese in Himeji, Japan.
- The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences awarded five UM journalism projects student Emmy Awards for excellence in broadcast journalism. UM student winners include **Anna Cole**, **Conor Ballantyne**, **Lauren Robinson** and **Nina Sveinson**. The Emmy Awards honor excellence in television news, documentary, entertainment and individual achievement.
- Two recent graduates of the UM School of Journalism earned top honors in the national Hearst Journalism Awards Program. **Chris Allen** and **Ruth Eddy** earned first and second place, respectively, in the radio news category of the national competition, sometimes called the Pulitzer Prizes of college journalism. Allen won \$5,000 for his first place win, and Eddy earned a \$4,000 prize. Both graduated from the journalism school in May with an emphasis in radio.

Office of the President

- More than 1,700 students from across the globe competed in the semiannual Capsim Challenge to see who has the corporate intellect to be a winning CEO. UM School of Business Administration recent graduate, **Donna Weathers**, took second place in the competition. Students from 36 countries competed in the online challenge, in which participants manage a simulation of a multimillion-dollar company. Weathers entered the challenge after using the simulation program in a School of Business Administration class. Capsim is the world's largest business simulation platform.
- UM student **Whitney Snow** was awarded the American Indian Business Leader 2013-14 Student of the Year award. She was recognized at the 20th annual American Indian Business Leaders conference, which was held in April in Scottsdale, AZ. Snow is a junior majoring in political science with a minor in Native American studies. She is from the Suquamish Nation in Washington State and has been a member of the AIBL UM student chapter for the past three years, and currently serves as its president.

FACULTY, STAFF & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- “Who are some of the best and brightest scientific minds of our time?” This is the first question in a recent publication by Thomson Reuters, titled “The World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds.” Three University of Montana faculty members are lauded in the publication for publishing the greatest number of highly cited papers between 2002 and 2012: UM Regents Professor of Ecology **Steven Running**, Associate Professor of Conservation Ecology **Gordon Luikart** and Biology Professor **Ragan Callaway**. They are the only researchers from Montana on the list.
- **UM Dining Services** won the National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS) 2014 Grand Prize for Sustainability. The NACUFS Sustainability Awards support the globally accepted triple bottom line philosophy, also known as “people, planet, profit,” a method of evaluating operational performance by measuring social responsibility, environmental impact and financial success. More than 55 colleges and universities across North America submitted entries. According to the criteria for the award, the grand prize award winner models exemplary excellence in the pursuit of a sustainable dining practice, resulting in a significantly reduced environmental impact and providing a best-practice model for the NACUFS membership. NACUFS also will present UM Dining with the gift of a living tree indigenous to Montana.
- The Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants recently awarded accounting Professor **Kenton Swift** the 2014 Jack Kempner Outstanding Educator Award. This award honors an educator who is distinguished for excellence in classroom teaching, motivating students and educational innovation. The award also recognizes the recipient’s contributions to the accounting profession, as demonstrated by active involvement in professional activities, such as professional accounting organizations.

- **Reed Humphrey**, former chair of the UM School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, was selected as the new Dean of the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences after an extensive national search. Humphrey has taught UM physical therapy students and served as the school's chair since 2006. Humphrey is the founding director of the Neural Injury Center at UM, a collaborative of expertise on campus that empowers students with traumatic brain and other neural injuries to access support and services from departments and colleges across campus. Humphrey earned a Ph.D. in exercise physiology from the University of Pittsburgh and two master's degrees; a Master of Science in Physical Therapy from the VCU Medical College of Virginia and a Master of Arts in Health and Exercise Science from Wake Forest University. He received his Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education from the University of Pittsburgh.
- **Nathan Lindsay** was hired as the new Associate Provost for Dynamic Learning in June. Lindsay joins UM from the Provost's Office at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He earned his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University, his master's from Indiana University and his Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Michigan. He will be responsible for academic policy oversight, assessment, institutional accreditation, curricular matters, and student academic issues.
- It was announced in May that UM received a **\$45 million cooperative agreement award** from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The five-year research award is the largest in the history of UM. Under the agreement, UM will help the Corps study and solve environmental and cultural resource problems across the nation. The University also will assist the Corps in implementing land and water ecological restoration, maintenance and training for optimal management of public resources. UM Professor **F. Richard "Ric" Hauer** will serve as program director and principal investigator of the cooperative agreement. Recent publications in Science and Conservation Biology name UM one of five universities in the nation demonstrating the largest growth in high-impact science publications and also ranks in the top 10 among all North American universities in conservation biology and ecology. Hauer will lead a research management team of 10 faculty members who already oversee a number of UM centers and academic programs including Professors **Ragan Callaway, John Kimball, Winsor Lowe, Cara Nelson, Maury Valett, Kelly Dixon, Andrij Holian, Elizabeth Metcalf, Jakki Mohr** and **Irma Russell**.
- UM Religious Studies Professor **Nathaniel Levtow** is the recipient of a Berlin Prize from the American Academy in Berlin and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship. Established in 1994, the Berlin Prize is awarded each year to scholars, writers, policymakers and artists who represent the highest standard of excellence in their fields. Levtow will spend the fall semester conducting research at the American Academy in Berlin, where he will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue with American and German academic, corporate, cultural and political leaders. The NEH fellowship represents an equally unique opportunity of an entirely different kind. Unlike

the Berlin Prize, it is not linked to any single university or city. Rather, it gives scholars the chance to follow their research wherever it may take them, allowing Levtow to conduct research in the great libraries and antiquities museums of America, Europe and the Middle East.

- UM College of Forestry and Conservation Fire Science Professor **Ron Wakimoto** recently received the Biswell Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Fire Ecology (AFE). The AFE gives up to three lifetime achievement awards each year to individuals who have made a significant contribution to fire ecology and management in the U.S. and have inspired and mentored a generation of fire ecologists. Wakimoto began his teaching career at Berkeley in 1976. While at the UM College of Forestry and Conservation, he has taught courses in wildland fire management, fuel management and fire ecology. He was chair of the Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences from 2005 to 2011.

OTHER CAMPUS NEWS

- **Eric Whitney**, a radio reporter covering health issues for National Public Radio and Kaiser Health News, will join Montana Public Radio as news director on Monday, Sept. 1. Whitney replaces Sally Mauk, who retired in May. Before his freelance work for NPR and Kaiser Health News, Whitney reported for Colorado Public Radio and started the News Department at public station KRCC in Colorado Springs. He also served as assistant news director for High Plains News in Billings.
- **The Wilderness Institute** and **Outdoor Program** launched a new Freshman Wilderness Experience Program on Aug. 16. Seventy freshmen arrived from all over the country to participate in the new wilderness-based program. Students spent four days in various wilderness areas throughout western Montana, either backpacking or rafting. Areas included the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness, the Mission Mountains Wilderness, the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Yellowstone River. One trip was in partnership with the Montana Wilderness Association and gave students the opportunity to participate in a Continental Divide Trail service project. UM students led all the trips.
- UM was recently named one of the **top four-year colleges and universities in North America** by the annual Princeton Review ranking. The rankings are based on surveys of 130,000 students. The 80-question survey asked students about academics, administration, campus life and the student body. UM students surveyed by the Princeton Review said they appreciate the University's focus on "environmental sustainability and social justice" along with the fact that UM strives to develop "creative thinkers and engaged citizens."

- Five outstanding University of Montana graduates will receive **2014 Distinguished Alumni Awards** during Homecoming weekend festivities. This year's distinguished alumni are Eric Sprunk, '86; Elizabeth Vinson Kohlstaedt, Ph.D. '89; Charles Hood '61, M.A. '69 (posthumously awarded); Denise Juneau, J.D. '04; and James Murray '76. The awards are the highest honor presented by UM's Alumni Association.
- UM offered a big data-focused summer course for business, computer science and law students covering the process and law surrounding electronic discovery, taught by Professor **Joel Henry**. UM is the first university to teach this course and is serving as Symantec's pilot for its Academic Alliance Program, in which the company partners with institutions to offer students cutting-edge products and technology curriculum from industry leaders. Software giant Symantec donated a server, software and data for the two-week course, which taught students how to search for evidence electronically and decide how to proceed with findings, based on both law and business practices. The course, titled eDiscovery Law and Practice, offers hands-on experience exploring a common use for big data and Symantec's software Clearwell.
- The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) recently ranked UM number 604 out of universities worldwide, placing UM in the **top 2.8 percent** of more than 22,000 degree-granting institutions of higher education. 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 293 institutions in the Americas to be featured in the 2014 rankings, and was **ranked No. 177 nationally**.
- The **Defense Critical Language and Culture Program** hosted 15 recipients of the Project GO Korean Scholarship in May. Project GO is a nationwide program for ROTC cadets, which provides a study abroad experience and training in critical languages, exclusively focused on the languages of Middle East, Asia, Central Asia and African countries. Project GO participants received two weeks of intensive, 90-hour course work. They learned conversational Korean, culture and regional studies. They also completed one day of language training conducted in complete isolation from English. The program is designed for ROTC participants who are broadening their global education and want to enhance their Korean language skills. After, they will travel to Korea to continue to study and meet individuals from the South Korean ROTC program. DCLCP at UM is one of the top language and culture training centers for the Department of Defense and other U.S. government agencies.

- The **UM Foundation** had a record year, receiving \$37.4 million in donations and pledges. This breaks a record set in 2008, when fundraising totaled \$36.7 million. This year's total comes from 10,000 individual gifts. Last July, President Engstrom and the UM Foundation launched a three-year initiative called *Investing in Student Success*. This year's fundraising total includes \$20.3 million toward the initiative. The rest of the gifts and pledges are for programs and support for faculty across the University.
- UM ranks **No. 8 on the Peace Corps' 2014 list of top Master's International Programs**. There now are 15 UM Master's International students making a difference overseas through Peace Corps service. Established in 1989, the UM Master's International program allows students to earn their graduate degrees while serving in the Peace Corps. UM offers students two fields in which to pursue graduate-level work through the Master's International program. Through the Intercultural Youth and Family Development program and the College of Forestry and Conservation, students pursue unique opportunities to earn their degree while working abroad.