



DATE: February 11, 2015
TO: Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: Royce C. Engstrom, President *Royce C Engstrom*
RE: University of Montana Campus Report for the March 2015 BOR Meeting

The Corporation for National and Community Service honored UM with a place on the **2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll**, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching awarded UM a **2015 Community Engagement Classification**. During the 2013-14 academic year, 2,991 students engaged in volunteer service through student-group activities, AmeriCorps service and service-learning courses. In total, UM students spent 221,832 hours volunteering during the academic year. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal government recognition that a university or college can receive for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. UM also is among 240 colleges and universities selected to receive a Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Local, regional and national speakers will address the theme of language during the University of Montana's **TEDxUMontana** event on Feb. 20, in the Dennison Theatre. Speakers will include Missoula Mayor John Engen, Salish and Pend d'Oreille language school Executive Director April Charlo, climate change communicator Susan Joy Hassol, journalist Clay Scott, Missoula Symphony conductor Darko Butorac, Raptors of the Rockies director Kate Davis, former Montana Poet Laureate Sheryl Noethe, stop-action filmmaker Andy Smetanka, three-time State AA speech and debate champion Erin Johnson, and Drum Brothers member and solo recording artist Matthew Marsolek. Video and live speakers will combine to spark deep discussion and connection with the audience during the event.

UM will celebrate its **122nd birthday** on Feb. 12. The birthday festivities are held each year to celebrate the anniversary of UM's chartering by the Montana Legislature in 1893 and to honor the University and its dedication to excellence. The annual Charter Day awards ceremony will recognize exemplary campus and community members. Missoula Mayor John Engen will attend the evening awards ceremony to present an official proclamation of University of Montana Day. UM Provost Perry Brown will preside over the presentation of **2015 Charter Day Awards** to the following recipients:

- Montana Alumni Award: **Don C. Cowles III**
- Associated Students of UM Student Service Award: **Mike Hopkins**
- Robert T. Pantzer Presidential Humanitarian Award: **Stephen Kalm**
- Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award: **Deborah Doyle McWhinney**
- Tom Boone Town and Gown Award: **Karen Ruth Adams**
- Outstanding Volunteer Award: **Wilena Old Person**

Office of the President

- Outstanding Service to the External Community Award: **Nancy Noel Marra**
- John Ruffatto Memorial Award: **Shawn F. Clouse**
- George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment: **Ronald H. Wakimoto**
- George M. Dennison Presidential Staff Award for Distinguished Accomplishment: **Cary Shimek**

The **Montanan**, the magazine of UM, recently earned awards in competitions from two higher education organizations. Editor-in-Chief **John Heaney** was recognized by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VIII with a Silver Award for his editorial short, titled "Coming Full Circle," which appeared in the fall 2013 issue. Heaney's piece featured legendary UM alumna Emma Lommasson and an ornate serving platter she received as a wedding gift in 1940. The CASE District VIII Awards competition includes entries from more than 130 institutions across the northwest United States and western Canada. The **Montanan** also won a Silver Award for general excellence in the 2015 Collegiate Advertising Awards competition in the "Magazine Series" category for issues released during 2014. The Collegiate Advertising Awards honor higher education organizations for excellence in communications, marketing, advertising and promotions of their institutions. This year's contest had more than 900 entries from across the U.S. Produced by University Relations at UM, the **Montanan** is sent to more than 100,000 alumni, friends and readers with ties to the University. It is published three times per year.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UM (**MOLLI**), which offers non-credit academic short courses to individuals who are age 50 and older, has surpassed 1,000 members, an all-time high for the winter term.

The U.S. Government Publishing Office recently spotlighted UM's **Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library** for serving as a regional depository library. The library was designated as a depository in 1909 and a regional depository library in 1965. The library provides an array of portal-level access points to online government resources, down to individual monographs of specific titles. "As one would expect, the New Government Documents Guide showcases new government publications, but it also does a wonderful job of tying historic documents to today's current events," the spotlight reads. As a regional depository library, UM provides government document administration as one of its services to selective depositories. The article also recognizes the library's work on a long-term retrospective cataloging project. The library has a strong collection of U.S. Forest Service publications and has partnered with GPO to provide cooperative cataloging for the pre-1976 publications and for fugitive publications the library holds.

The UM **Graduate School** recently was awarded \$730,000 grant as part of a \$2.4 million National Science Foundation Alliances for Graduate Education and Professoriate. The grant is titled "Collaborative Research: The Pacific Northwest Alliance to Develop, Implement and Study a STEM Graduate Education Model for American Indians and Native Alaskans." The goal of the grant is to increase the number of American Indian and Native Alaskan doctoral students who complete graduate programs in science, technology, engineering or mathematics, known as the STEM fields. The partner institutions include UM, Washington State University, University of Idaho, Montana State University, Heritage University, Salish Kootenai College and Montana Tech. The Montana institutions will focus on developing a culturally relevant and collaborative mutual mentoring model for American Indian and Native Alaskan students in STEM degree programs and their advisers. The goals of the mutual

Office of the President

mentoring model are to improve student retention and success and coordinate resources among alliance institutions. UM co-principal investigator **Blakely Brown**, MSU co-principal investigator Sweeney Windchief, and a program coordinator at Salish Kootenai College, are leading the development and implementation of the model, assisted by UM co-principal investigator **Aaron Thomas**, director of UM Indigenous Research and STEM Education. UM co-principal investigator **Dusten Hollist** is a participant on the project's social science research team. The research team will identify and evaluate culturally attuned mentoring approaches that are effective for American Indian and Native Alaskan graduate students and that also encourage American Indian and Native Alaskan undergraduate students in STEM fields to proceed into graduate school.

The Montana Alpha chapter of **Sigma Phi Epsilon (SigEp) fraternity** at UM was recently awarded the prestigious Frank J. Ruck Leadership Excellence Award at the Carlson Leadership Academy. The Frank J. Ruck Leadership Excellence Award is presented to only 10 chapters across the nation, recognizing them for outstanding campus and community leadership and for making significant positive changes to the campus community as a whole. SigEp embodies the "Balanced Man" ideal, encompassing "Sound Mind and Sound Body" as well as the values "Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love." Founded at UM in 1918, the Montana Alpha chapter of SigEp is known for its philanthropic participation with the Child Development Center, including the biennial "Run to Bozeman" event to raise money for the center.

UM Professor **Benedicte Boisseron's** cross-cultural analysis received the Nicolás Guillén Outstanding Book Award for "Creole Renegades: Rhetoric of Betrayal and Guilt in the Caribbean Diaspora," one of the top book awards from the Caribbean Philosophical Association. The award committee's evaluator called Boisseron's book "a brilliant text." Boisseron published the book in 2014 and was informed of her award in early 2015. She will attend an awards ceremony in June in Mexico.

During the early-morning hours of Jan. 29, NASA launched a satellite that will peer into the topmost layer of Earth's soils to measure the hidden waters that influence our ecosystems weather and climate. UM Professor **John Kimball** is among the team of researchers involved in the project. He developed algorithms that will digest the vast amount of data collected by the satellite and spit them into a software platform that estimates and monitors global land-atmosphere carbon dioxide exchange, ecosystem productivity and underlying environmental controls. The Soil Moisture Active Passive, or SMAP, mission will produce the most accurate, highest-resolution global maps ever obtained from space of the moisture present in the top 2 inches of Earth's soils. It also will detect and map whether the land surface is frozen or thawed. Kimball and his team hope to reduce uncertainty regarding the status and potential vulnerability of the global carbon sink, and better understand relationships between global water, carbon and energy cycles.

"First light" marked a new dawn for University of Montana astronomy on Dec. 16. UM Professor **Nate McCrady**, along with a team of researchers, achieved "first light" on Tuesday – a term used to describe successfully taking first observations from a telescope. McCrady traveled from Missoula to Mount Hopkins, Ariz., to oversee the installation of UM's new 0.7-meter telescope by crane at the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory. The UM-owned telescope is part of Project MINERVA, a multi-telescope observatory designed to hunt for rocky planets similar to Earth around nearby stars. The project involves four telescopes, each worth about \$250,000 and owned by different institutions. With 0.7-meter collecting mirrors,

Office of the President

the telescopes work together – flying in formation – to create the power of a telescope with a 1.4-meter mirror that would cost several million dollars. The telescope owners are UM, Harvard, Penn State and the University of New South Wales in Australia. The telescopes are housed 7,600 feet above sea level at the Whipple Observatory, which was selected as the site because it offers an average of 300 clear nights a year for observation. UM students also will be able to operate the telescope from campus and download the images for analysis.

The chief music critic of *The New York Times* included UM Dean **Stephen Kalm's** performance at Carnegie Hall in his list of the best classical music events of 2014. Dean Kalm performed in the Harry Partch opera "The Wayward" on April 22 as part of a series titled "Collected Stories," which was curated by Carnegie composer-in-residence David Lang. The New York Times published the list "Anthony Tommasini's 10 Best Classical Music Events of 2014" on Dec. 11.

UM President **Royce Engstrom** was named to the board of directors of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). Founded in 1915, AAC&U is the leading national association concerned with the quality, vitality and public standing of undergraduate liberal education. It functions as a catalyst and facilitator, forging links among presidents, administrators and faculty members who are engaged in institutional and curricular planning. Its mission is to reinforce the collective commitment to an education focused on outcomes critical for today's students, and to help individual institutions keep the quality of student learning at the core of their work as they evolve to meet new economic and social challenges.