



**DATE:** November 1, 2015

**TO:** Montana Board of Regents

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

**RE:** Campus Report for the November 2015 BOR Meeting

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### **CAMPUS NEWS**

- The **"Not in Our State" (NIOS) Sexual Assault Statewide Summit** will take place Sunday through Tuesday, Nov. 8-10, at the University of Montana. The fourth annual summit will bring together students, higher education leaders and community professionals to learn best practices surrounding interpersonal and sexual violence prevention and advocacy. Members of Montana universities and their surrounding communities will learn how to empower survivors of interpersonal and sexual violence and create an oppression-free campus climate. Attendees will learn how to provide a safe, supportive campus and community through education and primary prevention initiatives. The summit will include keynote and concurrent sessions.
- UM hosted **"Defining a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education for a Vibrant Democracy"**, a major educational conference, on Oct. 26-27, highlighted by keynote addresses from **U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, AAC&U Vice President Debra Humphreys** and **ACE Presidential Advisor Patti McGill Peterson**. The focus of the conference was on important and timely topics in higher education, including liberal education, global education, workforce development, academic innovation and educational delivery. Around 300 people attended the conference from across the state.
- The **SpectrUM Discovery Area** and its partner on the Flathead Indian Reservation, SciNation, have received the 2015 Paul Shin Memorial Award from the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS). The award recognizes dedication to communicating science to the public and inspiring others to do the same. The award, which carries a cash prize, was announced at the COPUS annual conference on Oct. 2. The award honors SpectrUM and SciNation's collaborative engagement with the Flathead Reservation's communities. Their cooperative efforts include the Science Learning Tent at the annual Arlee Celebration and the Science Bytes program that provides hands-on STEM enrichment at free lunch sites during the summer.
- **UM Dining Services** has surpassed \$1 million in local food purchases this past year for the first time since the 2003 inception of the UM Farm to College Program. For fiscal year 2015, UM Dining purchased \$996,099 from FTC partners and more than \$5,000 of food grown in UM Dining's garden, totaling more than \$1 million. UM Dining spent an additional \$234,154 on sustainable foods in fiscal year 2015, rounding out a total \$1.2 million in local and sustainable food. These purchases account for more than 31 percent of UM Dining's total

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food budget, and it's an increase of nearly 7 percent since last year. Through UM's FTC Program, UM Dining partners with 138 local farmers, ranchers and food producers. UM takes pride in working with local producers who make the effort to create or produce products in an environmentally sustainable way.

## **STUDENT NEWS**

- The **Davidson Honors College** at UM has 204 students in its entering cohort this year, the largest class since 2008. Competition for the entry into the Davidson Honors College is more intense than ever, the average SAT and ACT scores of DHC applicants were at record highs, and the average GPA of all DHC applicants was the second highest in the past decade. This year's winners of the prestigious Presidential Leadership Scholarship also had a higher average GPA (3.96) and ACT score (32) than any previous class of PLS awardees. Currently about 700 UM students across all academic majors are enrolled in the honors college. Students must complete seven honors courses in order to graduate as a University Scholar. Up to two courses can be outside-of-classroom experiences that carry academic credit. Opportunities include studying abroad, civic engagement, undergraduate research, internships, and several global programs and honors institutes and societies.
- Students at **Missoula College** are well above average when it comes to passing licensing tests required to practice nursing. In 2015, every student in Missoula College's **Associate of Applied Science Practical Nursing Program** who took the National Council Licensure Exam, passed, compared to 81 percent of students nationwide from other schools. Likewise, students in MC's Associate of Nursing Program garnered a pass rate of 94 percent in 2015, compared to 85 percent nationwide.

## **FACULTY & STAFF NEWS**

- A new, five-year \$3.8 million grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke has been awarded to a research team led by UM Professor **Chuck Thompson**. The grant will be used to support research that investigates new chemical and imaging technologies to understand how poisonous chemical agents known as organophosphates (OPs) enter the brain and how antidotes and therapeutics can be used to reduce neurotoxic effects to OP exposure. Thompson's research team includes Henry VanBrocklin from the University of California, San Francisco; Kurt Zinn from University of Alabama at Birmingham; and John Gerdes from the Southern Research Institute. The researchers are hopeful their PET imaging investigation will unveil important brain characteristics about susceptibility to toxic agents while guiding drug development to halt or reverse toxic effects following OP exposure.
- UM Professor **Hillary Wandler** and Adjunct Professor **Chuck Willey** were honored with prestigious awards during the State Bar of Montana's Annual Meeting. Governor Steve Bullock awarded Wandler, a law professor, the Neil Haight Pro Bono Award for her pro bono work with veterans in Montana. Wandler was nominated for the Pro Bono Award by Montana U.S. Senator Jon Tester. Willey was honored with the George L. Bousliman Professionalism Award, which recognizes lawyers or law firms that have established a reputation for and a tradition of professionalism and have demonstrated extraordinary professionalism within two years prior to the nomination. He was nominated for the award by Randy Snyder.

- The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies gave **Chad Bishop**, Wildlife Biology Program director at the University of Montana, an honorary lifetime membership award in July. Before starting as director at UM in August, Bishop served as assistant director for Wildlife and Natural Resources at Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The honorary lifetime membership award is customarily given only to outgoing agency directors. WAFWA honored Bishop for his work with the association from 2012 to 2015, when he chaired its Wildlife Health Committee and served as Colorado's representative on WAFWA's Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative Council.
- The National Institutes of Health recently selected UM Professor **David Shepherd** to be a member of its Center for Scientific Review. Shepherd, a faculty member in UM's **College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences**, accepted the four-year appointment to serve on the Innate Immunity and Inflammation Study Section. NIH chooses its members based on their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals and other significant scientific activities and honors. Shepherd's appointment began July 1 and ends June 30, 2019.
- **Ray Merseal** and **Gail Peters** of UM Dining Services were named the recipients of the National Association of Colleges and Universities Food Service Continental Region President's Award on Sept. 22 for their outstanding performance as conference chairs of the 2015 NACUFS Continental Regional Conference held at UM in April.
- **Roberta Evans**, Dean of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, participated in the Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows Session, held Aug. 12-14, in Denver. The program seeks to partner with senior-level political leaders who have the knowledge, skill and will to be effective, reform-minded education policymakers at the state level. Evans was asked to present on the challenges and successes of teacher preparation, effective practices and policies, and how the PJWCEHS is leading Montana toward innovative, alternative teacher pathways. She also served as an expert on standards, assessment, accountability and choice in teacher education and preparation. Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows include state governors, lieutenant governors, attorney generals, senators, commissioners and other senior level state politicians and policymakers.
- **UM's School of Business Administration** hired **Mike Morelli** over the summer to lead the **Entertainment Management Program**. Morelli has more than 30 years of experience in the entertainment industry and has spent the past five years in Ohio as general manager of the Performing Arts Center at Kent State University at Tuscarawas. Morelli said he hopes to build on the solid reputation of the UMEM program. He would like to grow the UMEM certificate program by partnering with departments across campus to offer additional courses to students from other programs, including performing arts, fine arts, media arts and journalism. Additionally, Morelli wants to implement a sports management option for UMEM students, which has been a goal for the program and its founders.

## ALUMNI NEWS

- The **UM Foundation** awarded the **Order of the Grizzly**, its highest honor, on Sept. 24 to **Suzanne and Bruce Crocker** of Palo Alto, California, and **Terry Payne** of Missoula. The Order of the Grizzly recognizes those who have made a significant impact on UM through their

leadership and philanthropy. This year's recipients are shining examples. In April 2014, the Crockers established the Suzanne and Bruce Crocker Distinguished Director Fund in support of the Montana Museum of Art and Culture. Over the past decade, Payne was instrumental in the creation of both The Payne Family Native American Center and the Elouise Cobell Land and Culture Institute. He also supports a variety of other campus units, including the School of Business Administration and Missoula College. In addition to their financial contributions, all three recipients have been trustees of the Foundation and active volunteers around campus. The UM Foundation established the Order of the Grizzly in 1965 to honor individuals who sustained an active interest in Montana and whose accomplishments contributed to the welfare of the state, nation and world. The award now is conferred on those who have made a significant impact on the University through their leadership and philanthropy.

- The **UM Creative Writing Program** presented author **Rick DeMarinis**, a 1967 UM alumnus, with its Lifetime Achievement Award during the Montana Book Festival in early September. DeMarinis has written ten novels and seven collections of short fiction. His novel "Year of the Zinc Penny" (Norton, 1989) is a New York Times Notable Book. His short stories have appeared in several noteworthy journals, including *Esquire*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harpers*, *GQ*, *The Paris Review* and *The Iowa Review*. After receiving his Master of Arts degree from UM in 1967, he taught creative writing for 25 years as a professor at San Diego State University, Arizona State University and the University of Texas at El Paso. He served as a visiting writer at a number of prestigious writing programs, most recently the Master of Fine Arts program at UM in 2002. D'Ambrosio, a recipient of a Whiting Writer's Award and a Lannan Fellowship, among other honors, is the author of two books of fiction and two essay collections. He teaches fiction at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.