



**DATE:** February 10, 2016

**TO:** Montana Board of Regents

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

**RE:** Campus Report for the March 2016 BOR Meeting

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### **Student News**

- UM School of Journalism Photography Student **Evan Frost** placed among the top 20 finalists in the national Hearst Journalism Awards Photo One Competition. Frost's portfolio placed 18th in the Photojournalism I: News and Feature Photography category. Frost worked as the photo and video editor at the Montana Kaimin during fall semester of 2015, as well as the multimedia editor for the 2016 edition of the Montana Journalism Review.
- Incoming UM Graduate Student **Leanne Falcon** was recently awarded a \$5,000 Native Science Fellowship, which she will use for her research project during spring semester 2016. Falcon, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe, graduated from UM with a bachelor's degree in biology. After earning her undergraduate degree she worked as a project coordinator for the Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance, where she contributed to the conservation of the Badger-Two Medicine Area – a sacred area to the Blackfeet people. At UM, Falcon will work with Environmental Studies Professor **Rosalyn LaPier**, who will serve as her thesis adviser, to research the intersection between environmental science and traditional ecological knowledge. The Native Science Fellowship is funded by the National Science Foundation.
- A short documentary produced by eight seniors – **Whitney Skauge, Sean Guslander, Drew Daly, Paris Bread, Jeffrey Neubauer, Hiroka Matsushima, Lane Brown, and Sean Rudolf** – in the filmmaking program at the UM School of Media Arts recently won several awards after its premiere at the Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. The film "Everyone in Between" was one of 12 selected to premiere at the festival, and it won best original score, best editing, best directing and best LGBTQ film in the festival's Fusion Doc Challenge. In addition, the film won a distribution deal with Fusion networks. It profiles the lives of two transgendered women working on their personal identity and focuses on larger issues of gender nonconformity. The student filmmakers attended Slamdance, where they met and networked with professional filmmakers and industry leaders, providing a chance to bridge their academic careers with real-world applications. As part of the Fusion Doc Challenge, the film also will screen in Missoula during the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in February.

### **Faculty News**

- UM History Professor **Anya Jabour** spent five weeks in Virginia this past spring working as a historical consultant for the new PBS Civil War drama "Mercy Street." The program premiered Jan. 17. As a historical consultant, Jabour's job was to make the actors appear as authentic as possible. Jabour was asked to lend her expertise after her 2007 book "Scarlett's Sisters: Young

Women in the Old South” ended up in the hands of producer Lisa Wolfinger. “Scarlett’s Sisters” provides a look into how elite Southern women found a catalyst during the Civil War. Wolfinger originally asked Jabour to serve as a script reviewer when the series was in the early stages of development, in early 2013. As a script reviewer, Jabour commented on the characters, plot and dialogue, with a focus on young women’s wartime experiences, including shifting gender roles, evolving courtship practices and changing family dynamics. Once the series went into production in spring 2015, Wolfinger invited Jabour to serve as on-set historical consultant.

- UM Restoration Ecology Professor **Cara Nelson** recently received a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research on forest restoration in Chile during spring semester 2016. Nelson previously was chair of the international Society of Ecological Restoration and the first director of the ecological restoration program in UM’s College of Forestry and Conservation. Her research concentrates on increasing knowledge about ecological processes and applying it toward restoration efforts. While in Chile, Nelson will collaborate with other researchers and focus on two major projects: a holistic assessment of temperate forests needing restoration throughout South America and analysis of the effectiveness of current forest restoration treatments in the region. Nelson also will teach a graduate-level restoration ecology course at the University of Concepcion (Universidad de Concepción) in Chile this spring.
- UM Political Science Professor **Sara Rinfret** was recently named a 2016 Fulbright Specialist for public administration. Rinfret will serve as a Fulbright Specialist at the University of Aarhus in Denmark during February and March. She will work with top public administration practitioners and scholars at UA to lead an environmental policy analysis workshop on innovative regulatory solutions; write environmental science and policy curriculum for UA’s master’s degree program; and help to develop a new survey research tool to examine the relationships between environmental regulators and the regulated community.
- UM Professor **Amanda Golbeck** was recently selected by the Fulbright Specialist Program to advance the understanding of public and global health research at the University of Latvia in Riga, Latvia. Golbeck, a Professor of Public and Community Health Sciences, will spend two weeks in May sharing her knowledge about modern, state-of-the-art, statistical research methods to enable more sophisticated and useful public health research at the University of Latvia. As a Fulbright Specialist, the university also invites Golbeck to conduct consultations with doctoral students and faculty members, sharing her recommendations for which research methods to use for specific research projects. Through the partnership, the University of Latvia faculty members hope to learn higher quality research methods to have a greater practical application toward improving general and mental health, mental health services, education, demographic issues, and more.

### **Other UM News**

- UM has been named a **Top School in the Military Advanced Education & Transition 2016 Guide to Top Colleges & Universities**, a searchable online database that measures institutions based on best practices in military and veteran education. The guide assesses colleges and universities based on six criteria: military culture, financial assistance, flexibility, general support, online support and on-campus support. The entry on UM cites the Veteran’s Education and Transition Services Office as a prime example of how the University supports student veterans. The guide states “the University of Montana has taken huge strides to ensure the veteran population is taken care of and given the opportunity to succeed in college.” The listing is just one of several accolades recognizing UM for its commitment to veterans. MilitaryFriendly.com also included UM in its 2016 Military Friendly Schools rankings. Last year, UM was officially designated a Purple Heart University – recognition that places it among a handful of select universities in the country. Not only is UM the only institution in Montana to earn the designation, but the only one in the Northwest.

- Great Value Colleges recently **ranked UM number 8 of 35 for offering a great value on education in a beautiful setting**. UM earned the No. 8 position for the number of awards and recognition the campus has received; notable features, such as significant architecture; campus location; student retention rates; and affordability. “We were particularly impressed by [UM’s] naturally beautiful setting at the foot of Mount Sentinel,” wrote Gabrielle Gibeily, editor of Great Values Colleges.
- UM provides more health career programs than any other campus in the state, and recently launched a new **UM Health & Medicine Initiative** to promote this fact and foster new advances in health education and research. The new organization will recruit students into health professions and create new degree programs to meet employment demands; strengthen relationships with partners committed to regional graduate medical education; boost collaboration of UM’s instructional, research and clinical expertise in health care; and facilitate robust research focused on improving health outcomes across Montana.
- UM now has its first **endowed dean’s position**, thanks to the generosity of two UM families who came together to ensure the school will always have strong leadership. Mark Burnham ’84 and Eric Sprunk ’86, together with their families, have each made a \$1 million contribution to create the School of Business Administration’s (SoBA) Endowed Dean’s Chair. Their private support will enable SoBA to recruit an exceptional candidate to fill Dean Larry Gianchetta’s very big shoes. Gianchetta retires on June 30, 2016, after 41 years as a professor and administrator at SoBA. The \$2 million endowment guarantees that funds to support the next dean’s salary and vision will be available in perpetuity. Burnham and Sprunk are both SoBA graduates who studied finance and accounting. They never met while they were students at UM, but connected thanks to service with the UM Foundation and a shared passion for advancing SoBA.
- The **UM School of Journalism** recently was ranked the **eighth best college journalism program in the nation** in a survey by the Radio Television Digital News Association. The No. 1 theme cited by voters in the survey was equipping students with real-world experience. The association is a professional organization for reporters working in digital formats. RTDNA members include those working in the industry, as well as educators and students.
- **UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences** recently earned two top national rankings for its graduate programs in curriculum and instruction. U.S. News and World Report ranked UM among the **“2016 Best Online Graduate Education Programs,”** noting UM’s College of Education for its significant number of online graduate programs, access to tenure-track faculty, and a curriculum-delivery model that enables greater collaboration and connection to peers and mentors than other traditional education programs. The second nationwide ranking came from Top Masters in Education. It ranked UM among **“The Top 50 Best Value Masters in Special Education Programs,”** at the No. 29 spot. UM strives to maintain a special-education program to prepare students who seek initial licensure in special education, as well as for teachers currently working in the field of teaching but who are seeking to serve students with special needs. UM’s graduate programs in curriculum and instruction incorporate the integration of ideas, cooperative endeavors, respect for learning and individual worth to successfully prepare education professionals who will work in K-12 classrooms, in teacher education programs and as district curriculum leaders.
- The **UM Athletic Training Program** recently received a perfect review from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education. The review marks continued success for Athletic Training at UM, and a long accreditation history. The Athletic Training program at UM was among the first in the nation and continues to lead the field as one of the fastest growing graduate programs at UM. The rigorous accreditation process ensures the program develops, maintains

and promotes appropriate standards in educating students and providing professional and residency athletic training experiences.

- The UM Alumni Association will honor eight members of the UM and Missoula communities at the annual **Charter Day Awards Ceremony** on Thursday, Feb. 18. The ceremony, which will cap off the celebration of UM's 123<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The list of this year's award recipients follows:
  - ASUM Student Service Award: **Byron Boots**, UM senior, Business Administration
  - Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award: **Nelson Weller**, Former UM Foundation Board of Trustees Member
  - Montana Alumni Award: **Marcia Holland**, Former UMAA Board Chair
  - George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment: **Vince Colucci**, Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice
  - George M. Dennison Presidential Staff Award for Distinguished Accomplishment: **Barb Seekins**, Assistant Director, Foreign Student and Scholar Services
  - Outstanding Service to the External Community Award: **Sara Polanchek**, Clinical Director, Department of Counselor Education
  - John Ruffatto Memorial Award: **Sam Panarella**, Associate Professor, Alexander Blewett III School of Law
  - Robert T. Pantzer Presidential Humanitarian Award: **Deena Mansour**, Associate Director, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center