




The University of
Montana

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DATE: 5 May 2009
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: G. M. Dennison, President 
RE: Campus Report for the May 2009 Board of Regents' Meeting

- **Irma Russell**, a legal scholar and national leader in environmental and energy law, has been named the first female dean of the UM School of Law.
- **Stephen Kalm**, an award-winning vocalist, opera singer and music professor, has been appointed dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.
- **Craig Barrett**, Intel chairman of the board, spoke at UM's 112th Commencement ceremonies Saturday, 16 May. **Caleb Shields**, a resident of the Fort Peck Reservation, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree and **Phyllis Washington** of Missoula received an Honorary Doctor of Education degree during the 2009 Commencement ceremonies.
- The University of Montana set a new record for Spring Semester enrollment—13,825, some 469 more than a year ago.
- "1,000 Promises to Keep," a UM Foundation fundraising program developed to support endowed scholarships, raised nearly \$250,000 in private donations to ensure the economic slowdown does not affect students who rely on privately funded scholarships.
- UM President **George M. Dennison** and Philosophy Professor Emeritus **Fred McGlynn** will receive 2009 Montana Governor's Humanities Awards on 4 June. Presented by Humanities Montana, the awards honor achievement in humanities scholarship and service and enhancement of public understanding and appreciation of the humanities.
- The board of trustees of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has named Wildlife Biology Professor **L. Scott Mills** a 2009 Guggenheim Fellow.
- Regents Professor of Ecology **Steve Running** was among six recipients of the first-ever Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Pioneer Award in April. Running received the award for his pioneering and seminal scientific work with climatology, global warming, and other aspects of atmospheric science.
- China's Ministry of Education recently designated the Mansfield Center as the 39th Confucius Institute in the United States. The Chinese government supports 269 Confucius Institutes worldwide to promote the teaching of Chinese language and culture.
- The Howard Hughes Medical Institute selected The University of Montana to participate in the Science Education Alliance's Phage Genome Research Initiative, offering intense, hands-on laboratory experience to undergraduate biology students. UM joins an elite group of 24 institutions participating in the program.
- On behalf of the Irish government, Consul General **Gerry Staunton** made an official visit to The University of Montana to announce a grant of \$120,000 to the Irish Studies Program and Montana World Trade Center.
- Researcher **Tom Martin** of the Wildlife Biology Program and the Division of Biological Sciences and plant ecologist **John Maron** of the Division of Biological Sciences received a five-year, \$1 million grant from U.S. Geological Survey's Climate Change Science Program for their long-term project studying climate change and its impacts on animals and plants in the mountains of Arizona.

- Political Science Assistant Professor **Robert Saldin** will serve as a 2009-10 Academic Fellow in terrorism studies at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a nonpartisan policy institute in Washington, D.C.
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT) pledged \$125,000 toward an endowed chair in cardiovascular sciences at UM.
- Department of Radio-Television students won “Best of Festival” award from the Broadcast Education Association for the 2008 documentary “Dear Mom.” “The Farrier,” produced by Associate Professor **Ray Ekness**, won “Best of Festival” in the faculty news division. Seniors **Breanna Roy**, **Dan Boyce**, and **Stacy Gray** and junior **Ashley Korslien** received BEA news division awards.
- Dining Services Sous Chefs **Farrah Smith** and **Eric Bayley** won bronze medals in the 2009 National Association of College & University Food Services Continental Region Culinary Challenge.
- Environmental Studies Associate Professor **Phil Condon**’s story “Nine Ten Again” appears in the spring/summer 2009 issue of *Shenandoah: The Washington and Lee University Review*. Condon’s short story collection *Nine Ten Again* received the 2008 Elixir Press Fiction Award.
- A delegation of 12 UM students won a Distinguished Delegation Award and a Position Paper Award at the National Model United Nations Conference in New York in April.

GMD/kc