

Sept. 13-14, 2017

[Research continues to surge](#) at a record pace at the University, with the institution setting a record for external funding for the third year in a row.

UM journalism students [took home a national win](#) in the television in-depth reporting category at the Society of Professional Journalists' 2016 Mark of Excellence Awards, and four additional students were honored as national finalists.

The Center for Integrated Research on the Environment at UM is [working to restore a gun from the USS Maine](#), the historic warship that sank in 1898. It also has been tasked with studying the [effects of aircraft noise on sage grouse](#).

UM's Wheels Across Montana program held its [second annual Adaptive Recreation Clinic](#) to provide Montanans living with disabilities the opportunity to access adaptive cycles and recreation equipment.

UM Assistant Professor Lu Hu will lead a team of researchers in studying the chemical composition and evolution of western wildfire smoke, [thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation](#).

A research team at UM [received a \\$1.8 million grant](#) to promote professional success for Native American faculty in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Residents in underserved areas [gained eight new medical doctors](#) in June when UM graduated its second class of family physicians from the Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana.

UM researcher [Natalie Dawson](#) published a study pointing to evidence of a previously unknown species of pine marten in the Rocky Mountains.

Wildlife biology Professor [Dave Naugle](#) co-edited a book on balancing renewable energy development and biodiversity protection.

UM researchers [published a study](#) indicating that slow-growing ponderosa pines may have a better chance of surviving mountain pine beetle outbreaks in western Montana as climate change increases the frequency of drought and insect pests.

[Montana Public Radio's website and breakout podcast](#), "Threshold," received E.B. Craney Awards, which recognize excellence in local news, production, promotion, programs and public service in radio and television stations across the state.

Accounting Associate Professor [Joshua Herbold](#) was the first educator to be named president of the Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants board of directors since 2000.

Law students Frans Andersson and Kirsi Luther [took third place](#) at the International Negotiation Competition in Oslo, Norway.

UM welcomed 25 Iraqi students to campus and Missoula in July as part of the 2017 [Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program](#).

UM researchers [garnered media attention from around the world](#) after they published a study in Current Biology showing that sea spiders move blood and oxygen throughout their bodies by pumping their guts, not hearts.

Tobin Miller Shearer, an associate history professor, raised funds and awareness for UM's Black Student Union and African-American Studies Program – the country's third oldest – by [embarking on a 500-mile bike ride](#) across the state in July.

[Twenty-three exceptional incoming UM freshmen](#) received Presidential Leadership Scholarships, which recognize outstanding talent, academic performance, leadership and contribution to the community. Recipients enroll in UM's Davidson Honors College and receive a four-year tuition waiver, plus an additional \$5,000 to \$7,500 per year.

[UM is the first institution in the state to join the Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success](#), whose membership includes 135 public and private colleges and universities across the nation. To be eligible for coalition membership, schools must score high in two of the following three areas: engaging underserved populations, helping students graduate with little to no debt and achieving high graduation rates.

[Lisa Blank](#), a professor in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to help teachers in Kyiv, Ukraine, advance educational reform in classrooms, buildings and communities.

[An anonymous donation](#) to UM's Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences has created two academic chairs, a first for the college and among the academy's highest honors.

Three UM alumni are [finalists for Fulbright U.S. Student Program Awards](#) to fund their teaching abroad.

UM's Specialist in School Psychology program [earned full accreditation](#) through 2024.