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DATE: April 23, 2013
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Royce C. Engstrom, President *Royce C Engstrom*
RE: Campus Report for the May 2013 Board of Regents Meeting

- In July, construction will begin on **The Elouise Cobell Land and Culture Institute**. Located in The Payne Family Native American Center, the preliminary design includes a classroom and two learning laboratories, one dedicated to applying GIS technology to land use and the other serving as a culture laboratory. The Institute will be a tremendous resource for Native American Studies, Geography, Law, and Business, among other departments and schools.
- The University of Montana was named to President Barack Obama's **Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll**. The designation is the highest national honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service learning and civic engagement.
- The Office of the Provost named its first three **Programs of National Distinction** – creative writing, organismal biology and ecology, and wildlife biology. These programs will be the special focus of the PoND program over the next several years, in order to help their growth into world-class programs.
- Administrative News:
 - Three finalists have been selected for the **Provost** and Vice President for Academic Affairs position. They are visiting campus in early May.
 - In early April, the **School of Law** began a nationwide search for a new dean. Current **Dean Irma Russell** will continue in her position until a new dean is hired, then will assume a faculty position.
 - **The University of Montana Foundation** has selected **Shane Giese** as its next President and CEO. Giese's career includes 27 years in higher education fundraising. He comes to UM from Kansas State University, where he served as senior vice president for development. He begins May 1.
 - **Lucy France**, former Director of Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action, has been hired as **UM Legal Counsel**. Before taking on the EO/AA role, Lucy was a partner at Garlington, Lohn & Robinson. She began her new duties on February 20.
- The University launched an updated homepage (umt.edu) on April 15, part of a larger rebranding campaign that will launch on April 30. Over several months, UM will roll out its new look. These efforts to modernize the University's brand will assist in the recruitment process for both students and faculty/staff.
- The Montana Legislature and Governor Bullock recently named the **Grateful Nation Montana Fallen Soldier Memorial** on the Missoula campus as the official State Iraq and Afghanistan

Veterans' Memorial for Montana. The memorial will be listed in a state directory of memorials and appear on official Montana maps.

- Both **Griz and Lady Griz basketball teams were Big Sky Conference Champions** after winning a tournament played here in Missoula. It was the first time in over ten years that both men's and women's tournaments were held on the UM campus. Both teams went on to play in the NCAA tournament but exited in the first round.
- The University of Montana celebrated research, creative scholarship and entrepreneurship during "**II2013–Innovation and Imagination 2013**," a week of activities that took place April 10-17. Faculty and both graduate and undergraduate students shared their research and explored ways to nurture scholarship at UM. **Russ Lea**, CEO of the National Ecological Observatory Network, delivered the keynote address.
- The School of Law hosted the **35th Public Land Law Symposium and the 41st National Spring Conference on the Environment** on April 17-18. The deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior and legal experts from around the country converged to discuss energy policy on public lands.
- Some of the nation's leading experts on health care came to Missoula in March for the **2013 Mansfield Conference**, titled "The Future of Health Care in America: Balancing Individual Rights with Social Responsibility." They led sessions on topics such as implementation of the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, Medicaid, health insurance coverage and obesity.
- **The English Language Institute** at The University of Montana is one of only two universities in the United States chosen to host the **U.S. Department of State's Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Long-term English Language Program**. The program assists in increasing Fellows' English language proficiency and understanding of American culture.
- The Associated Students of The University of Montana **Neighborhood Ambassador Program** expanded its services this semester with the help of \$10,000 from Missoula Mayor John Engen's office. The program, which started in spring 2012, works to improve relationships between student renters and permanent residents living in neighborhoods surrounding the UM campus
- On April 8, a new food truck, the **Galloping Griz**, began serving up chow to the Missoula College West Campus, where lunch options are a minimum. The truck also serves the main campus in the evenings.
- In other food news, the **Griz Burrito**, one of the many entrees available from UM Dining Services, made the "Final Four" of a March Madness-style contest for campus foods, sponsored by The Cooking Channel. Our burrito lost out to a BBQ dish from Baylor University but made many new fans along the way.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Marilyn J. Bruguier Zimmerman**, UM alum and director of the National Native Children's Trauma Center at The University of Montana, has been appointed to the new 12-member **National Child Abuse Prevention Commission**. The group will study and evaluate federal, state and private child welfare systems and provide policy recommendations to prevent child maltreatment, abuse, neglect and fatalities from abuse.

- In late February, **Matthew Taylor**, director of UM's **Montana Safe Schools Center**, was one of 60 people invited by the White House to help inform President Barack Obama's school anti-violence initiatives in Washington, D.C.
- In early March, **Bryce Maxell**, senior zoologist with UM's Montana Natural Heritage Program, was named **Wildlife Biologist of the Year** by the Montana chapter of the Wildlife Society at their annual meeting in Whitefish. Professor **Dan Pletscher** also received recognition from the Society; he was honored with this year's **Distinguished Service Award**.
- The American Fisheries Society presented Research Scientist **Erin Sexton** the **2012 Conservation Achievement Award** in February. Professor Sexton received the award in recognition of her work in developing a long-term solution in protecting the Flathead Basin ecosystem.
- The American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded **Joanna Klink**, associate professor of English and creative writing, the \$7,500 **Arts and Letters Award in Literature** to honor her career and poetry publications.
- The **Montana Book Award** recognized biology Professor **Kerry Foresman** for his book *Mammals of Montana*, which was named a 2012 Honor Book.
- New research conducted by Associate Professor **Lilian Calderon-Garciduenas** connects long-term air pollution to cognitive defects in children. Her findings were published in the **BioMed Research International** journal in March.
- Researchers in the Division of Biological Sciences are beginning to unlock the mysteries of photosynthetic organisms living in Yellowstone's hot springs. In an article titled "**The Evolution of RuBisCO Stability at the Thermal Limit of Photoautotrophy**," which will be published in the next issue of *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, lead author and UM **Associate Professor Scott Miller** explores a protein central to this extreme lifestyle.
- UM scientists, including Regents Professor of Ecology **Steve Running**, recently published the cover story for the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* on satellite-based drought monitoring.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Freshman **Maojie Xia** traveled to Tokyo in February to compete in the 11th annual World Students GO OZA Championships. He was the only US representative in the competition and placed eighth.
- Three University of Montana students recently received prestigious national scholarships. **Kim Ledger** won a Goldwater Scholarship for science research, **Mara Menahan** won an Udall Scholarship, and **Becca Borlough** was named a 2013 Truman Scholar.
- Campus Compact recently honored Associated Students of UM President **Zach Brown** as a Newman Civic Fellow.