



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

#### **Funding News:**

- The University of Montana Foundation has launched a new fundraising venture called the **Student Success Initiative**. The Initiative will focus on raising funds for student scholarships (both undergraduate and graduate) and for facilities that help students succeed, including the Learning Commons in the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library.
- UM recently received a \$1 million grant to endow its **Osher Reentry Scholarship Program**. Scholarships support nontraditional, undergraduate students who have experienced a gap in their education, work while in school, and show academic promise. UM offers the only Osher program in Montana. The first Osher Foundation grant to UM was \$50,000, in 2010; the increase marked by this recent grant underscores the remarkable need for this kind of student support in our state.
- For the first time ever, a **Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)** at a university in Montana has been granted a Phase 3 award from the National Institutes of Health. The \$5 million, five-year, Institutional Development Award went to UM's Center for Environmental Health Sciences. Part the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, CEHS employs about 50 people who study environmental impacts on human health.

#### **Administrative News:**

- **Perry Brown** was named the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He held this position on an interim capacity from 2010 until he was hired permanently in May and has been an administrator at UM since 1994.
- **Martin Blair** was named the new Director of The Rural Institute. Martin comes to us from Utah State University, where he was most recently the Associate Director of the Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education.
- The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center also has a new director, **Abraham Kim**, who recently served as Interim President of the Korea Economic Institute.
- **Eric Gutierrez** was named the new Director of Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action. Eric is an attorney with experience in public policy, immigrant rights, and human rights.

- UM began the search for a new **Registrar** in June after the former Registrar retired. We hope to have the position filled by the end of the school year. **Joseph Hickman** has been named the Interim Registrar.

#### **Additional Campus News:**

- Both the **United States Departments of Justice and Education** and the **NCAA** recently completed their investigations into the University of Montana. In response to the DOJ/DOE investigation, the University has entered into agreements with those agencies that prescribe target dates for improving policies and procedures. We have already begun to increase our efforts to educate students and employees about sexual assault prevention and response, and the Office of Public Safety is working hard to develop a revised policy on dealing with sexual assault that incorporates best practices nationally. The University is also working closely with the City of Missoula and the Missoula Police Department on training and policy development.
- Regarding the NCAA investigation, the Athletics Department already began making changes in their operations before the NCAA came back to us with their findings. These include hiring an additional staff member (who started July 15) to focus on monitoring and compliance and better educating staff, coaches, boosters, and athletes about rules compliance.
- Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor** will receive an honorary doctorate of laws from UM on September 13. She was recommended for the recognition by the faculty of the UM School of Law for her tremendous achievements and for long-standing connections to the School of Law.
- UM's **spectrUM Discovery Area** – a children's science museum operated by the University – has a brand-new home in downtown Missoula. The new space offers a more visible location for the museum, which serves up to 50,000 annually. The museum has collaborated with UM researchers to provide cutting-edge programs on neurology, river ecosystems, robotics, and geology.
- The first ever **TEDxUMontana conference** is coming on September 19. Speakers will highlight their knowledge and research on topics like marriage systems in Nepal, bark beetles, how physical activity improves brain function, and experimental sound design. This is the first in what will ideally be an annual event.
- To celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Montana Museum of Art and Culture at UM recently published ***The Art of the State: 120 Artworks for 120 Years***, a handbook documenting the museum's permanent collection of nearly 11,000 objects. The book will help bring the permanent collection (the largest public art collection in the state of Montana) to a wider audience.
- **Missoula College** will offer free college preparation noncredit classes for qualified veterans through the Montana Veterans Upward Bound program during October and November. The courses are designed to help veterans brush up on basic skills in small, supportive groups.
- UM and Salish Kootenai College co-hosted the **College Board's Native American Student Advocacy Institute's national conference** May 30-31, 2013. The conference theme was "Educating Native Youth for Success: Many Nations, One Vision."
- After launching a **new homepage** in the spring, the University is slowly revamping other web pages in the umt.edu domain. This continuing process will bring our new brand identity to all

our online properties in the coming months.

- **Billboards** advertising UM to prospective students will be going up around the state this fall. Thematically, they focus on highlighting UM's academic programs and student success. The billboards are part of a larger recruitment marketing campaign initiated this year.
- Missoula was recently named **the No. 7 best college town in America** for 2013 by Livability.com. For this fourth installment of the annual ranking, editors narrowed their search to cities with a high quality of life based on factors ranging from cost of living and walkability to cultural amenities and pollution levels.

#### **Research/Faculty News:**

- The research of UM microbiologist **John McCutcheon** was featured on the cover of the journal *Cell* on June 20, 2013. His work explores the symbiotic relationship between mealybugs and two species of bacteria that live inside them. He completed his recent study with an international research team of 12 scientists; the team's project was funded by a \$529,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.
  - UM researchers at **The Rural Institute**, in partnership with Missoula's Providence St. Patrick Hospital, have been awarded a competitive, \$1.85 million grant to investigate how the hospital discharge process affects the treatment outcomes of patients from rural areas and to explore ways to improve those outcomes.
  - Led by UM glaciologist **Joel Harper** and with backing from the National Science Foundation, a team of researchers from UM and University of Wyoming set out to observe and record exactly how melt water flows along the bed of the Greenland ice sheet and how that water influences ice sheet acceleration. Their paper was published in *Science* on August 15.
  - Associate Professor **Kelly Dixon** is among a team of volunteers documenting artifacts at Ghost Cave at Pictograph Cave State Park near Billings. The cooperative project aims to take a more comprehensive look at the inscriptions left behind by Works Progress Administration workers who excavated the caves from 1937 to 1941.
  - Earlier this summer, The American Society of Mammalogists awarded UM Wildlife Biology Professor and Craighead Chair **Joel Berger** the 2013 Aldo Leopold Conservation Award. The award honors well-established individuals who have made lasting contributions to the conservation of mammals and their habitats.
  - The Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants recently named UM Associate Professor **Joshua Herbold** recipient of the 2013 Jack Kempner Outstanding Educator Award. The award honors an educator who is distinguished for excellence in classroom teaching, motivating students, and educational innovation and contributions to the accounting profession.
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