



DATE: June 6, 2016
TO: Montana Board of Regents
FROM: Royce C. Engstrom, President *Royce C Engstrom*
RE: Campus Report for the July 2016 BOR Meeting

Student Achievements

A Missoula College Culinary Arts student recently created the top pastry dessert at the American Culinary Federation and Washington State Chefs Association Culinary Competition in Bellingham, WA. **Katie Barnes**, a first-year student at Missoula College, took home a gold medal for her deep-fried bunyols with dark chocolate filling, accompanied by a rhubarb caramel sauce, fresh strawberries and pistachio butter ice cream topped with caramel brittle. The competition drew more than 60 student and professional chefs from across the country.

Two UM students have won highly competitive U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarships for all-expenses-paid trips to Russia and Morocco this summer. **Julie Ammons**, a Russian major, will participate in the CLS Program in Vladimir, Russia, and **Natalie Stockmann**, a sophomore, will study Arabic in Meknes, Morocco. Ammons and Stockmann were chosen among 560 other undergraduate and graduate students from all over the country to participate in the CLS Program. A part of the U.S. Department of State, the CLS Program is a fully funded summer overseas language and cultural immersion program that has sent more than 5,000 students abroad in the past 10 years.

UM student **Mariah McIntosh** recently earned an honorable mention in the Goldwater Scholarship competition, the top national award for undergraduate research in science, math and engineering. McIntosh also recently earned a prestigious Udall Scholarship for her commitment to a career in the environment. McIntosh, a junior, is majoring in biology with a concentration in organismal biology and ecology, as well as minoring in climate change studies and wilderness studies. She plans to be a university plant ecologist. The Goldwater Scholarship was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, science and engineering. Students must be nominated for the scholarship by a faculty representative.

UM student **Alyssa Schock** was recently named the recipient of the American Physical Therapy Association's 2016 Minority Scholarship Award. Each year the APTA honors outstanding physical therapy students who demonstrate active participation, potential for superior achievements in the field, academic excellence and appropriate display of professionalism as a future physical therapist. Schock's research at UM focuses on the increased incidence rate of diabetes among Native Americans, specifically on the Flathead Indian Reservation. She plans to return home after graduation to practice physical therapy in St. Ignatius.

Accounting students in the **UM School of Business Administration** who took the national Certified Public Accountant licensure exam for the first time in 2015 rose to the top, ranking No. 1 in the state out of six institutions and No.18 nationally among medium-sized programs. The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) produced the report. NASBA provides licensing and academic credential evaluation services for state boards of accountancy. UM ranked in the top 100 out of all 821 schools nationwide for first-time pass rate. UM's pass rate of 70 percent is the highest overall first-time pass rate in the state and far above the national average of 55 percent.

The **UM School of Business Administration**, along with the **Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs**, and the **Blackstone LaunchPad at UM**, have announced the winners of the 27th Annual John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge. **Zachary Falen**, a UM management information systems undergraduate student, took home the top prize of \$15,000 for his startup plan, Bloom Content. Bloom Content is a cloud-hosted web platform that connects undergraduate content-producers with local businesses looking to stand out online. Bloom gives local businesses a convenient, affordable option for generating custom video, photo and graphic content. During the 13-hour statewide competition, held May 5 at UM's Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building and Gallagher Business Building, 16 student teams competed in three rounds of judging and presentations, leading up to the evening's final round, when four finalists presented their business plans to a panel of 55 judges and an audience of more than 200. The event is judged and coached by venture capitalists, angel investors, bankers, successful entrepreneurs and corporate executives who share their expertise and commit their time before and during the competition. Support from more than 50 sponsors and private donors funded the more than \$50,000 prize purse and the students' competition expenses.

Leadership Changes

UM has hired a former College of Forestry and Conservation faculty member to serve as dean. **Tom DeLuca**, who spent 12 years at UM, will begin his new duties as dean in January. He currently serves as the director of the University of Washington School of Environmental and Forest Sciences. As a highly acclaimed soil scientist, DeLuca has an impressive research publication and funding record. In addition to his time at UM and UW, DeLuca has worked as a faculty member at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and Bangor University in the United Kingdom. DeLuca was also a senior scientist at The Wilderness Society for three years and senior research scientist at the Institute for Subarctic Alpine Research in Sweden.

UM has named **Christopher Shook** the new dean of the School of Business Administration. Shook will succeed SoBA Dean Larry Gianchetta, who will retire in June after 41 years at UM. Shook most recently served as Russell Professor of Management in the Harbert College of Business at Auburn University and previously served as chair of Auburn's Department of Management. He also has served as the director of Auburn's Central and Eastern European Studies Program since 2004 and was director of the Lowder Center for Family Business and Entrepreneurship from 2008 to 2011. Shook will assume his new role at UM by August. Shook has actively sought out international opportunities for himself and his students, with stints at the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Pau and ESCEM School of Business and Management in France, and the Academy of Economic Studies in Romania. He has practiced as a CPA, and served as senior associate editor for the Journal of Management. He received his Bachelor of

Science degree in accounting from the University of Northern Colorado. He earned an MBA from the University of Mississippi and a Ph.D. in business administration from Louisiana State University.

Recognition for UM Programs

"Call of the Osprey," a book focusing on **UM's Osprey Project**, recently won the 2016 Award for the Best Science Book for Children K-12 from the National Science Teachers Association and the Children's Book Association. The book, written by Missoula resident and author Dorothy Hinshaw Patent and featuring photos by William Munoz, is part of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's "Scientists in the Field" series, which is aimed at fueling the curiosity children have about the natural world and showing them the cool things scientists do. During their research for the book, Patent and Munoz spent time in the field and the lab with scientists seeing how they analyze osprey blood and feather samples for heavy metals. The Montana Osprey Project was started by **Rob Domenech**, the director of Raptor View Research Institute, **Heiko Langner**, a former UM researcher and director of the Environmental Biogeochemistry Lab, and **Erick Greene**, a UM professor in the Division of Biological Sciences. It focuses on research, education and the conservation of ospreys throughout western Montana, as well as the effects of heavy metal contamination on them.

UM Dining took home three major awards at the recent National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS) competition. The Iron Griz – An American Bistro received a gold award in the single-retail category, and the Galloping Griz food truck took silver in the same category. The Iron Griz offers American cuisine at affordable prices. Guests enjoy the best of the season's harvest from local farmers purchased through the UM Farm to College Program, as well as produce from the UM Dining gardens. UM Dining also received a bronze award for a residential dining special event in the large-size university category for their December Star Wars Omelet Bar event. The event featured a "Star Wars" inspired menu, elaborate settings, staff members dressed as characters from the movies, karaoke and games.

The native garden surrounding **The Payne Family Native American Center** is now designated Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The NWF program encourages homeowners, schools and businesses to provide habitat for wildlife through landscaping practices that promote visits from birds, butterflies and more. To earn certification, an area must provide food, water, cover and places to raise young, and must be maintained using sustainable landscape practices. UM Natural Areas Specialist **Marilyn Marler** pursued the NWF certification to enhance the community's understanding of native gardens and to increase awareness in Missoula about the Certified Wildlife Habitat program. UM's native garden features wide swathes of native grasses that are drought resistant and provide food for caterpillars and other beneficial insects. A grove of serviceberries produces a delicious berry crop for visiting birds, and nine rock circles in the garden each represent culturally important plants from Montana's Native American cultures and people. UM's native garden also serves as a classroom for students participating in an internship created by Marler and Assistant Professor **Rosalyn LaPier** to share their knowledge of Montana's native plants and their traditional cultural uses.

The **School Psychology Doctoral Program**, in the Department of Psychology, has successfully obtained accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA). The doctoral program matriculated its first student in fall of 2005 and graduated its first student in 2014.

This is the program's initial accreditation. School psychologists, like clinical or counseling psychologists, are health service psychologists who provide expertise in mental health, learning and behavior to help children and youth succeed academically, socially and emotionally. The Program has three full-time faculty members: **Greg Machek**, **Jacqueline Brown**, and **Anisa Goforth**. Status as an accredited program means that doctoral students have met rigorous, nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality mental health care set by APA.

Grants and Private Support

College of Forestry and Conservation Professor **Beth Dodson** is the project director of a grant recently funded for \$1.4 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Energy's Biomass Research and Development Initiative. Researchers will use the grant to identify and overcome the barriers to using biomass from fuels-reduction and forest-restoration treatments. Dodson and her team will look at the logistics, economics and sustainability of using an otherwise disposed resource as fuel for bioenergy operations. Dodson will lead the operations team for the grant. Forestry Professor **John Goodburn** will co-lead the silviculture team along with Michael Battaglia from the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station. Ching-Hsun Huang, a forest economist from Northern Arizona University, will co-lead the economics team along with Nathaniel Anderson from the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station.

UM's **Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders**, in partnership with the **Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities**, has been awarded a \$1.2 million grant to provide training to professionals seeking to become competent, certified speech-language pathologists and contribute to the speech, language, and literacy needs in their respective rural communities. The grant is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. The innovative project, titled "UM Online University Training for Rural and Equitable Accessibility in Communication Habilitation" (known as UM-OUTREACH) is one of eight proposals selected for funding from a nationwide pool of 30 applicants. Through the provision of unique, accessible and equitable training opportunities, UM-OUTREACH will prepare numerous professionals as they complete graduate training to become certified speech-language pathologists. For rural and Native American populations in particular, this method of health care delivery can dramatically reduce costs and increase the quality of care provided. Under the direction of **Julie Wolter**, Associate Professor and Associate Chair of UM's Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, UM-OUTREACH will be a collaborative project between UM faculty and **Martin Blair**, Executive Director of UM's Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities. Through the collaborative efforts of Wolter, Blair and their team, a unique set of opportunities will be developed and a wealth of expertise can be offered across the state. As such, a larger and more diverse group of qualified, dedicated graduate students will be drawn to UM. Approximately 30 students graduate every year from UM's Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders with a Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology, and during the next five years, 16 scholars from rural and American Indian communities will graduate from the UM-OUTREACH program.

In 2003, the **School of Business Administration** created its first privately funded professorship thanks to a gift from Carol Jean Byrnes in honor of her late husband, Donald. Now, a second act of generosity ensures the **Donald and Carol Jean Byrnes Professorship in Finance** will continue for generations to come. With a posthumous gift of \$1 million, made through the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Carol Jean Byrnes has created an endowment for the

professorship. That means the donation will be invested, and the proceeds will support the position in perpetuity. There have been two Byrnes Professors at SoBA since 2003: Joseph Vinso, who served from 2003 to 2007, and Keith Jakob, who joined the UM faculty in 2000 and has served as Byrnes Professor since 2007. With private support, the Byrnes Professor can more easily pursue research and maintain a record of publication in top journals. The Byrnes family's donations also support the Byrnes Accounting and Finance Research Seminar, which showcases internationally renowned experts and helps students deepen their knowledge and understanding of the field. Since 2003, SoBA has hosted 62 lectures on topics such as financial audits, wealth management and accounting ethics. Since it was inaugurated in 1997, the fund has helped more than 25 students attend UM.