

Student Affairs News

Summer 2008: Issue 3: **The Giving Issue**

Student Success Scholarships

Did you know that 80 percent of privately funded scholarships at The University of Montana are awarded to juniors and seniors? This is one reason Student Affairs is trying to raise money for Student Success Scholarships.

Student Success Scholarships are unique in that they allow the Financial Aid Office great flexibility in determining who is qualified to receive assistance, because they are not tied strictly to academic performance. They can be used to support underclassmen as well as upperclassmen who can't afford to pay tuition, as long as they are in good academic standing.

It continues to be true that many minority students hail from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. So these scholarships can also be used to help UM attract students of color who might not otherwise be able to afford a college education, thus creating a more diverse student body that is more reflective of the broader American culture.

By donating to the Student Success Scholarship, you can assist students who are in financial need or who have demonstrated a high level of academic ability. Please contact **Curtis Cox, Director of Development**, for more information on how you can contribute: **(406) 243-2585; curtis.cox@mso.umt.edu**.



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You can make a donation to Student Affairs through the UM Foundation by returning the enclosed envelope or by visiting www.umt.edu/sa and clicking on the secure link "Giving to Student Affairs." Thank you for your support.



Teresa Branch, Vice President for Student Affairs

Greetings. I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health and high spirits. Summer, especially for Montanans, is an active time, with many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. However, in this issue of our newsletter, we focus on something that can be done year round: **giving**.

During the past year, Student Affairs worked closely with the **UM Foundation** to create an awareness of the financial needs of the University. With fewer state appropriations, we must rely on alternate sources of funding. Your support helps us increase student scholarships, initiate new projects and programs, and maintain existing facilities and services. Please take a moment to read about our projects and plans, which, with your help, will turn into future successes!

Sincerely,

Teresa A. Branch

Grizzly Pool: Staying Afloat

If you had walked into Schreiber Gym before 1956 and proceeded into the wing that currently houses the prop shop for the School of Fine Arts, you would have made a big splash—literally! This is where the pool was once housed before a new pool was constructed in today's Pool Art Annex. The Grizzly Pool has seen many changes over the years, but it continues to draw swimmers of all ages from the greater Missoula area.

The Grizzly Pool staff has a longstanding tradition of teaching people to swim and enjoy swimming as a recreational sport. Swim lessons can be taken for credit by UM students majoring in Health and Human Performance and by children and adults from the community year round. American Red Cross classes are offered to certify swimmers to become lifeguards and swim instructors, and Campus Recreation staff receive training on first aid and CPR.

At seven lanes across and 25 yards long, the pool is large enough to host kayaking classes

and "open kayak nights" for those who want to brush up on essential skills before heading out to local rivers and lakes. Groups such as Missoula's Search and Rescue also use the pool for recreational swims, water safety discussions, and training.

The Grizzly Pool is one of only a handful of pools in the state that feature a tile-lined tub. Amenities include a one-meter diving board, locker rooms for men and women, a pro shop, and office space. The pool's large deck space, 600-seat spectator balcony, good ventilation and friendly staff make it the premier indoor swimming pool in Montana for hosting competitions and swim meets. Many champions have trained in its waters. The University's men's collegiate swim team won confer-

ence titles from 1966-1974. **More recently, the UM Grizzly Triathlon Team hosted its 20th annual triathlon at the Grizzly Pool, continuing a long tradition of being the earliest triathlon held in the spring, attracting athletes from all over the Northwest.**

In the 1980s, the campus began looking at its buildings with energy conservation in mind. At the time, the Grizzly Pool was poorly ventilated and poorly insulated. An \$850,000 remodel included the insulation of an exterior wall, the installation of state-of-the-art ventilation and temperature control systems, as well as a new gutter system, a new circulation pump and better plumbing.

In 2000-01, in conjunction with the construction of the new Fitness and Recreation Center, the Grizzly Pool was renovated again, this time to the tune of \$1.3 million. Anti-slip overlay replaced the slippery tile deck, and the sanitation and filtration systems were

brought up to standard. A classroom/conference room was added, along with a fully equipped weight room and dry sauna. Adding ten large windows on the east side of the building greatly improved the aesthetic value by making use of natural light.

Swimming builds muscle strength, endurance, and cardiovascular fitness, while maintaining low-impact stress on the body.

Swimming pools are expensive to maintain, however, and ours is in need of constant "TLC."

Monitoring chemical levels, upgrading equipment, and maintaining clean, safe environs all require staff time and ample resources. By donating to Student Affairs, you can help us maintain this wonderful community resource!



Campus Recreation Promotes Avalanche Awareness

In 1972, Campus Recreation started providing avalanche awareness education for winter backcountry enthusiasts in Missoula. Today, Campus Recreation works in partnership with the West Central Montana Avalanche Center (WCMAC) of Lolo National Forest to provide avalanche awareness and education, and has established an online presence at the Web site MissoulaAvalanche.org.

This past season (November through March), the Avalanche Center issued 19 avalanche advisories and four special warnings for high avalanche danger. As a supplement to the advisories, the Center produced some short videos demonstrating field stability test results and broadcasted them on YouTube.com. These videos, in addition to a link posted on the Web site of the Missoula Office of the National Weather Service, increased traffic to MissoulaAvalanche.org from 195,532 hits last year to 312,009 hits during this past season.

Avalanche advisories still are issued through more traditional outlets as well. The Trail 103.3 FM, a local radio station, broadcasted a one-minute avalanche update every Friday and Saturday and ran a 30-second avalanche awareness promotion several times a day during winter.

In addition to collecting snow data and issuing advisories, Campus Recreation produces seminars, gives presentations, and helps WCMAC raise money for training and education. Approximately 360 UM students attended classes and programs sponsored by the Avalanche

Center this past season. Classes, ranging from one-hour, basic awareness classes to 20-hour, Level I classes, drew over 800 participants, including Forest Service personnel, Life-Flight crews, Wilderness EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) candidates, and search and rescue teams. The Avalanche Center also conducted 18 avalanche safety programs in local schools, which were attended by 355 7th- to 12th-grade students.

SPOTLIGHT



Dudley Improta, Assistant Director of Campus Recreation, is a graduate of the National Avalanche School and the American Avalanche Institute. During his 23-year tenure at UM, over 3,000 skiers, snowboarders and snowmobilers have passed through his classes. He helped establish the West Central Montana Avalanche Foundation, a 501(3)(c) in 2001, served as chair for many years, and continues to donate time by gathering snow data, writing advisories, and teaching classes.

And the Award Goes to....

Every year Student Affairs recognizes outstanding faculty and staff who have helped us achieve our mission. We congratulate the following individuals and thank them for their service:

2008 Student Affairs Staff Recognition Award

Linda Green, Director of Health Enhancement at Curry Health Center

2008 Faculty Recognition Award

Dr. Udo Fluck, Department of Geography

2008 Faculty Recognition Award

Dr. Garon Smith, a.k.a. "G. Wiz," Department of Chemistry

Fun Facts about the UC

1.5 million: number of annual visitors

360: number of rooms

402: number of doors

2,348: number of windows

56,284: square feet of window glass

4,987: number of light bulbs

52: different kinds of light bulbs used

6.5 million: gallons of water used annually



University Center

The Heart of UM

The University Center (UC) is the heart of The University of Montana. An informational hub, a gathering place, an entertainment venue: the UC offers something for everyone. Here, students can learn about student groups, buy and sell books, watch movies with their friends, have lunch, or just pick up coffee on their way to class. Staff and faculty, as well as students, enjoy convenient access to vendors such as the Post Office, Verizon and the Credit Union. Conferences, art exhibits, fairs, and a host of other cultural and educational programs draw students as well as many Missoulians. **The UC provides a place where, in an age of e-mail and online networking, people can engage with one another face-to-face, enjoying the free expression and exchange of ideas.**

The mission of Student Affairs is to facilitate student learning by providing high-quality programs, services, and developmental opportunities, while fostering an inclusive campus community. The UC is crucial to our mission, but the facility itself is showing signs of age. With the help of donors, we hope to make the following renovations in the coming years (please see the following page):



“We will celebrate our 40th anniversary in February 2009. Now is the perfect time to take a look back, while making plans to assure our facilities will meet the needs of tomorrow’s students.”

- Candy Holt, UC Director

- **Replace the atrium canopy**

The atrium canopy will have to be replaced soon with a more energy-efficient system. We would also like to add a forced air mechanical system to improve climate control, which would be concealed behind new drop ceilings. Other plans include installing different floor coverings and new seating, as well as replacing the lights with new energy-efficient fixtures.

- **Redesign the entrances**

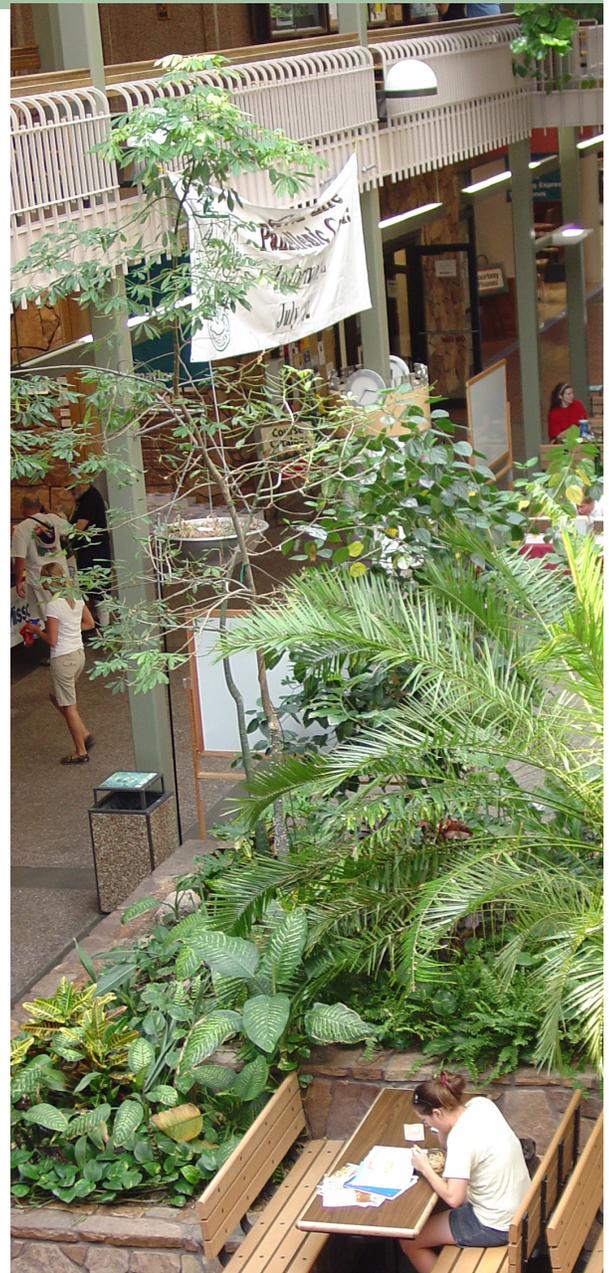
We would like to redesign the entrances to the UC to improve accessibility, maintenance, safety, and aesthetics. Plans include installing a new passenger elevator, resurfacing the stairs, and potentially constructing a skywalk that would lead to the new Alumni Building, if the new building is constructed where the tennis courts are presently.

- **Renovate the Ballroom**

The UC Ballroom is one of the largest and most versatile spaces on campus, making it a popular rental facility, but the hardwood floors simply cannot be sanded again: they must be replaced within the next few years. The ceiling is dated and the curtains are ten years old. Groups that rent the Ballroom expect a sleek environment with sophisticated technology, such as lighting, audio and projection systems. To accommodate these groups, we hang wires throughout the room, which is not only labor intensive, but aesthetically displeasing. The Ballroom has old-world charm, but needs a twenty-first century makeover! Only then will it continue to be an attractive venue for banquets, tradeshow, conferences, and more.

- **Redesign the southwest corner**

The southwest corner of the UC was originally designed as a lounge. Today it is the Student Organization Suite. We would like to redesign the space to better match its current use and improve efficiency. We imagine opening it up with walls of windows to create a new landmark icon visible from the Oval.



Dining Services: Going Green, Going Local

On Earth Day 2002, President George Dennison rededicated The University of Montana to promoting sustainable development, self-determination, and social justice on local, state, national, and global levels by signing the Talloires Declaration. The Declaration, which has been signed by over 300 university presidents, is a ten-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy on campuses worldwide. University Dining Services has committed itself to the cause by “going green” with many new environmentally-friendly policies and initiatives, including the use of biodegradable carry-out containers, reusable



Today, a typical food product travels 1,500 miles and changes hands 33 times before reaching the consumer.

container incentives, green cleaning supplies, energy star equipment, composting, and recycling. One of the most successful environmental innovations has been the Farm-to-College Program.

University Dining Services initiated the Farm-to-College Program in the spring of 2003, with the help of four graduate students from the Environmental Studies Department. The mission of the program is to “support agricultural and economic development statewide by purchasing Montana food products to serve in our dining venues.” These products include any that are raised, grown, wild harvested

in Montana or are unique to the state; any that are processed or manufactured by a Montana-owned business; or any that are processed or manufactured by any business that primarily uses raw materials from Montana.

In 1950, 70 percent of the food consumed in Montana was grown in Montana. Today, a typical food product travels 1,500 miles and changes hands 33 times before reaching the consumer, and only 15 percent of the average food budget is spent on local products. By working to increase the amount of Montana-produced foods available in dining halls and campus stores, University Dining Services is not only helping to make Montana greener by reducing fossil fuel consumption, it is also helping to preserve Montana’s economy and tradition by supporting local agriculture, manufacturing, and ranching.

The UM Farm-to-College Program

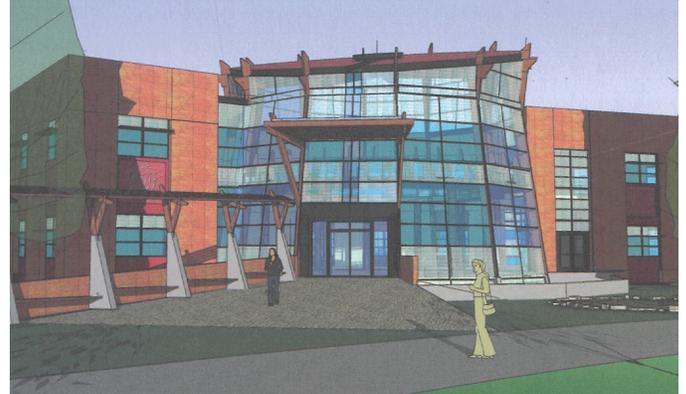
- Since the spring of 2003, The University has purchased nearly \$2.5 million in local and regional products such as safflower oil, meats, bread, dairy products, and fruits and vegetables from local producers.
- During the same period, overall food costs as a percentage of the UM Dining Services budget decreased.
- Fifty-two Montana farmers, ranchers, and food-related businesses are active in the program.
- Students report that they prefer local food and supporting the regional economy.



Planning Under Way for the Native American Center

American Indian Student Services (AISS) is committed to working toward a more involved American Indian student body and to be a liaison between the student body and the University administration, faculty and staff. AISS is currently looking forward to relocating to a new home in the long-awaited Native American Center, which is scheduled to begin construction later this fall. A ceremonial ground-blessing ceremony was held on the site near The University's Oval last April to coincide with the Kyi-Yo annual Pow Wow held on campus. Numerous luminaries and representatives of Montana's tribes participated in that ceremony, including Antoni Incashola, a Salish and Pend d'Oreille elder from the Flathead Reservation. The ceremony embraced traditional customs of acknowledging the land before transforming it, including offerings of tobacco and prayers for healing.

The number of Native American students on campus has grown dramatically in the last several years, and it is becoming more critical to provide a gathering space as well as an academic, social, and cultural hub. "Many of our students come from remote areas, and moving here is a culture shock for them," says Linda Juneau, UM Tribal Liaison. "It is important for us to encourage familiarity and a sense of community for students who come from close-knit communities and families." The Center will also be home to the Native American Studies Department, which enrolls over 2,000 UM students each year. The 19,900 sq ft facility will be the first in the nation built expressly to house both an academic department and a student affairs unit that together serve Native American students and provide an opportunity for all students to study Native American culture and history.



"The Native American Center represents a commitment to the study of American Indian issues, dedication to American Indian achievement in higher education, and respect for the ongoing contributions of American Indian tribes and culture to the state of Montana." - Reno Charette '90 (B.A., Liberal Arts)



American Indian Student Services Welcomes New Director

Fredricka Hunter will serve as the new director of American Indian Student Services (AISS) in the Division of Student Affairs. Hunter, who holds degrees from both The University of Montana and The University of Utah, will take the place of Patrick Weasel Head, who retired in June 2008 and who directed AISS since its inception in 2003.

AISS works to improve and provide programming that promotes Native American students' success and interests on campus. With a background in social work and Native American community mobilization, Hunter is a passionate supporter of higher education, students' interests, and her alma mater. In her own words, "there have been so many people on this campus who provided me with support and direction - I am excited to have the opportunity to do the same for others."

AT A GLANCE:

NAME: Fredricka L. Hunter

TRIBE: Blackfoot

INSPIRATION: Meeting challenges and building communities

Honors Living Learning Community a Success!

The results are in: the Living Learning Community that was established in Knowles Hall at the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year was a big hit with students! During fall semester, the Introduction to Honors course was held in the newly renovated classroom in Knowles Hall. Previously the TV room, the new space featured all the technology needed for instruction.

"The students really liked having their class in

ing communities is to facilitate student engagement by allowing students to congregate in a place that is comfortable and familiar, and to interact with faculty members outside the traditional classroom. According to Dean McKusick, the space did have a positive effect on class discussion.

Introduction to Honors combines academic instruction with practical knowledge about the Honors Col-

**"I saw a difference in students," said Dean McKusick.
"They seemed more willing to open up."**

such close proximity to their living quarters," said James McKusick, dean of Davidson Honors College. "They insisted on continuing to meet there every week."

The Introduction to Honors course is taken mostly by freshmen who are living away from home and doing college-level work for the first time. It isn't unusual for freshmen to encounter transitional issues when trying to adjust to campus life. **The idea behind Living Learn-**

lege, university life, and ways to succeed. The curriculum incorporates service opportunities and cultural activities that allow students to engage outside the classroom, discover common interests, and develop friendships. Student Affairs hopes to sponsor additional Living Learning Communities so that more students will have the opportunity to experience this unique classroom dynamic!

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STUDENT
Affairs

<https://life.umt.edu/vpsa>

American Indian Student Services Campus Recreation Career Services Curry Health Center
Dean of Students University Dining Services Disability Services for Students Enrollment Services
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