

Winter 2014 Issue

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A Note from the Dean

Friends and Colleagues,

At the start of this new year I am beyond thrilled by the amazing things happening here in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. Our high caliber students and faculty contribute tirelessly to the improvement of educational practice both here at UM and in classrooms across Montana and the nation.

Our college has seen some history-making events over the past few months. We have been honored to receive Governor Steve Bullock, who praised our Teacher Education program and it's efforts in early childhood and special education. Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor also toured our college and was impressed by the collaboration between our faculty and local and state teachers in the pursuit of improving civics education for high school students.

The truly groundbreaking and beneficial work being done in our College continues and we are so proud to have you all involved in our success.

Please read on and learn about the many great things happening within the college of education and human sciences, and know that we are forever grateful for all you have done to help support education in Montana and across the nation.

Onward and upward,

Dr. Roberta Evans





UM Lauded for Excellence in Preparing Educators, School Professionals

University of Montana's professional education programs recently earned their highest national accreditation review since 1954, when the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences became a founding member of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The accreditation evaluated 42 professional education programs across four colleges and schools, ranging from teacher preparation in elementary education to advanced degrees in school administration and school psychology, among many others.

"Under the leadership of Dean Roberta Evans, the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences delivers outstanding educator-preparation programs and ensures their candidates and graduates are successful," said B. Joyce Stallworth, NCATE team chair and associate provost at the University of Alabama. "During the entire accreditation review process, the unit provided clear evidence that it meets the six rigorous NCATE standards.

"Throughout the onsite visit, all administrators, faculty, staff and students demonstrated their commitment to excellence," Stallworth said. "I was impressed with the level of professionalism exhibited by everyone at the University." High accreditation scores highlight the college's excellence in preparing future P-12 teachers and other school professionals.

"A strong teaching workforce is critical for good schools and the economic strength of Montana," Gov. Steve Bullock said. "The University of Montana has a long tradition of preparing teachers to serve our students from before they enter kindergarten until they graduate from high school."

The accreditation process occurs every seven years. The assessment requires the college to submit more than 3,000 data reports, policy documents and examples of student work. These documents were reviewed by educational leaders across the nation and within the state. The peer-review process culminated in a site visit, where 11 evaluators spent three days

engaged in presentations, interviews and school visits with more than 160 UM administrators, faculty, teacher candidates, graduate students, recent UM graduates and P-12 teachers and principals. They presented their findings to the Montana Board of Public Education and the NCATE/CAEP Continuous Improvement Commission for final review and recommendations.

Unanimously, the programs were awarded accreditation with the highest scores possible. Review findings emphasized their outstanding leadership, assessment system and innovative use of digital learning models, noting that the programs are poised for tremendous growth.

"At the University of Montana, we know our College of Education and Human Sciences is among the absolute best in the nation," said UM President Royce Engstrom. "These NCATE results confirm that through an in-depth review from outside evaluators."

"To attain such a high level of recognition through this rigorous process is noteworthy," said Denise Juneau, Montana superintendent of public instruction. "The work that has gone into program development and delivery on the UM campus will benefit Montana schools and students for years to come."

The programs also were lauded for their collaborative efforts among experts across the UM campus and area P-12 school partners, all of whom played key roles in earning distinction for UM's teacher-preparation programs in the review.

"The excellence of the college starts with an outstanding faculty who care deeply about their students and about educational research," Engstrom said. "Combined with forward-thinking leadership and state-of-the-art facilities, the college is a tremendous source of pride for UM and for the state of Montana. I want to extend my personal thanks to everyone from the College, across campus and area P-12 schools who helped achieve this extraordinary accreditation outcome."

With the goal to maintain a high level in the next seven-year accreditation, leaders in the college have set new benchmarks for excellence.

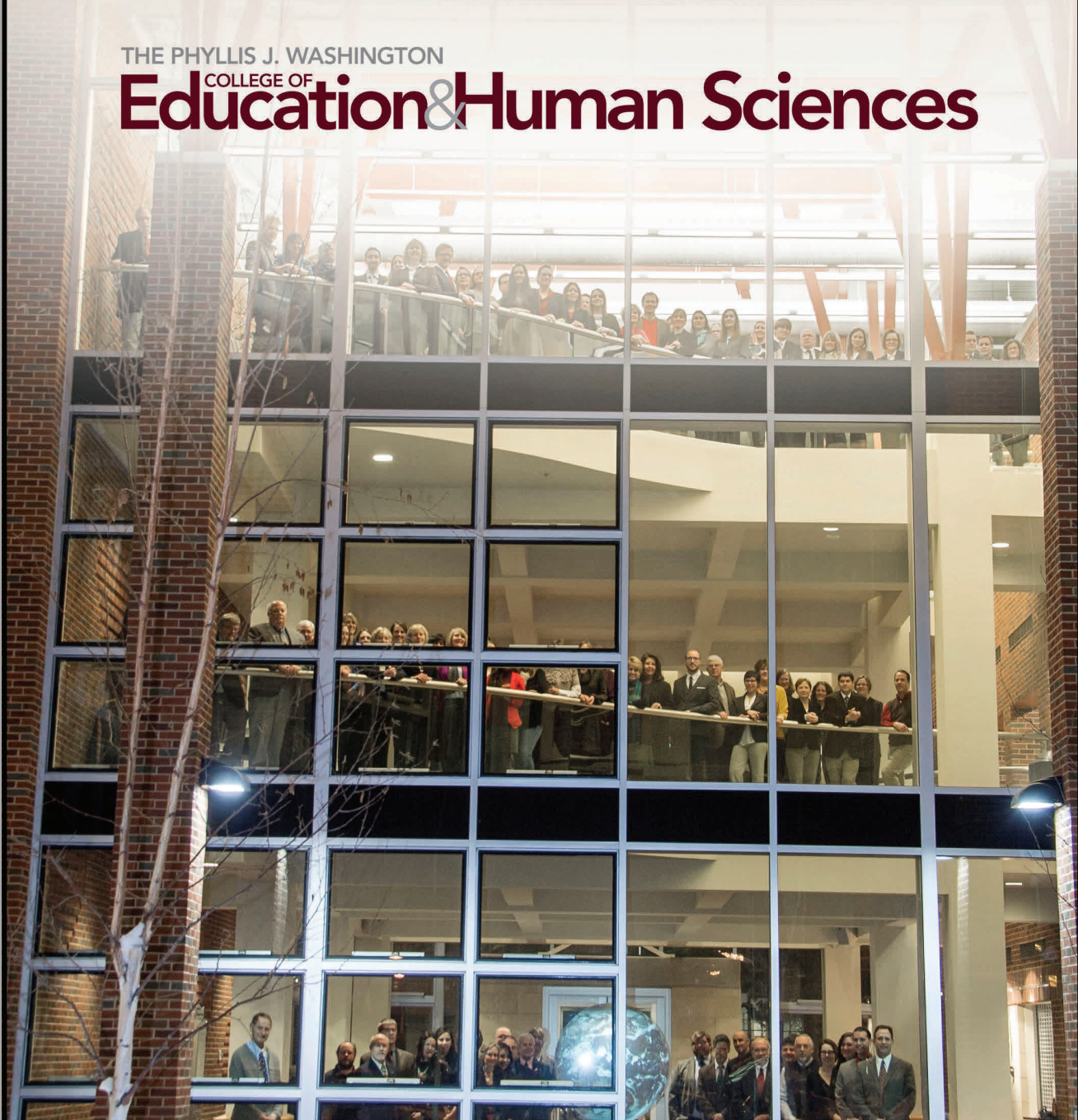
Better than ever!

The University of Montana's professional education programs are better than ever! Nationally recognized for 60 years, our programs were recently awarded their highest accreditation review since our founding membership in the prestigious National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Join us as we continue to build our legacy of excellence.

THE PHYLLIS J. WASHINGTON
COLLEGE OF

Education & Human Sciences



Gov. Steve Bullock Visits College, Applauds Education Programs

By Marlin Kidston of The Missoulian

Gov. Steve Bullock brought his statewide education tour to the University of Montana, continuing his push to bolster early childhood learning and get more degrees into the hands of adults.

After stopping at UM-Western in Dillon and the early learning center in Hamilton, Bullock toured the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences at UM to discuss learning in Montana.

"I'd like to see us do more before a student gets to kindergarten – early childhood education," Bullock said. "We need to recognize that kids learn in different ways these days."

Bullock's tour explored the growing role technology plays in education, and included a stop at the Montana Digital Academy – a statewide Internet tool that helps students make up course credits and access advanced classes.

"We're really proud of what has happened in the past three years of our program," Jason Neiffer, the academy's curriculum director, told the governor. "Montana really did need a state virtual school to serve our many rural students, and for schools that can't afford the diversity of programming they want."

Neiffer said the Digital Academy's popularity has led to its exponential growth over the past three years. The program saw 8,000 enrollments last year and included

what Neiffer described as a diverse base of students.

"We're the sixth-largest state virtual school per capita in the U.S., and the 12th largest overall," he said. "We're serving students on a modest budget because we were never intended to serve this many students in our original budget figures."

Throughout his tour, Bullock stressed the link between state education and economic development, saying the two issues go hand in hand.

It was a similar message delivered in his State of the State address in January, in which he said the state must work to prepare its students, from kindergarten through college, for a 21st century economy.

UM College of Education Dean Roberta Evans and associate professor Martin Horejsi agreed, saying technology has opened the doors to new ways of learning and created new opportunities for teachers and students in Montana.

"It comes down to what you want to do as opposed to what you have available," Horejsi said. "That's where the digital side makes a big difference. Here at UM, we're trying to free up the dreams of our students so they can teach how they want and in ways best suited to their environment."

Bullock said roughly 40 percent of Montana adults have college degrees. It's a figure he wants to build on.

"I want to get us to 60 percent of our adults having degrees," he said. "When we get to that stage, we'll have better job opportunities. The burden of that doesn't just fall on our universities. It runs all the way through the education process."



Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Views *iCivics* in Action



This autumn, the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Montana was honored to host retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for a demonstration of *iCivics*, the innovative online civics learning platform founded by Justice O'Connor herself.

Since its inception in 2009 *iCivics* has grown to include a multitude of lesson plans, video games, and interactive activities for middle and high school students - all of which lead to a firmer understanding of the judicial process and our nation's government. For this demonstration, a group of Honors American Government students from Anaconda High School used *iCivics* to learn about and debate the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* case that went before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2010.

Faculty and students from our College, along with visiting Professors Larry Howell and Anthony Johnstone from the UM School of Law, assisted in the discussion.

Justice O'Connor expressed her admiration for the students' diligence in

studying this case, as well as her excitement at the idea that *iCivics* is being used by educators and students across Montana.

Along with Justice O'Connor, other Montana leaders in education were present for this demonstration including UM President Royce Engstrom, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Perry Brown, Chair of the Montana Board of Regents Angela McLean, and State Deputy Superintendent Dennis Parman.



UM, MCPS and Let's Move! Missoula Host Healthy Children Summit at the University of Montana

This year the public was invited to learn about how physical activity helps students be more productive during class time, miss fewer days of school and create fewer disruptions at the Summit for Healthy Children at the University of Montana.

The summit, hosted by the University, Missoula County Public Schools, and Let's Move! Missoula, was held in the University Center Theater and was offered free of charge to the Missoula community.

Missoula County Public Schools Superintendent Alex Apostle kicked off the conference, UM Professor Steven Gaskill delivered a talk titled "Perpetual Motion – Prepared to Learn" and Darla Casteilli of the University of Texas, Austin, delivered the keynote speech on the connection between physical activity and learning.

This summit was the first of two, and the second will be held in February of this year, with a focus on healthy foods to promote learning. Both summits are extensions of the community-wide work that began with Let's Move! Missoula's Childhood Obesity Summit last fall and stems from the work of MCPS Graduation Matters Missoula's student wellness subcommittee.

The summit is funded by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation through their SHAPE P-20 grant to improve student success and graduation rates for Missoula students. Additional funding is provided by UM and the Missoula City and County Health Department.

UM Fellowship to Support Montana Child and Family Service Organization

Tara Smart leads a busy life. The Missoula resident has spent the past twelve years as a school psychologist in local schools, is both a wife and a mother, and is now a doctoral student in UM's Counselor Education Department. In spite of her demanding schedule, however, Ms. Smart remains focused on her passion: advocating for children and helping others to understand the unique needs of special education students.

Thanks to the vision and funding of some generous UM alumni, Ms. Smart will get the chance to pursue her

passion as the first recipient of UM's Intermountain Children's Home Doctoral Fellowship. Intermountain is a 104-year old, nationally recognized Montana non-profit specializing in meeting the diverse needs of children and families facing mental health and emotional challenges. The organization has grown dramatically in the past twenty years and now annually serves more than 1300 children and families across western Montana.



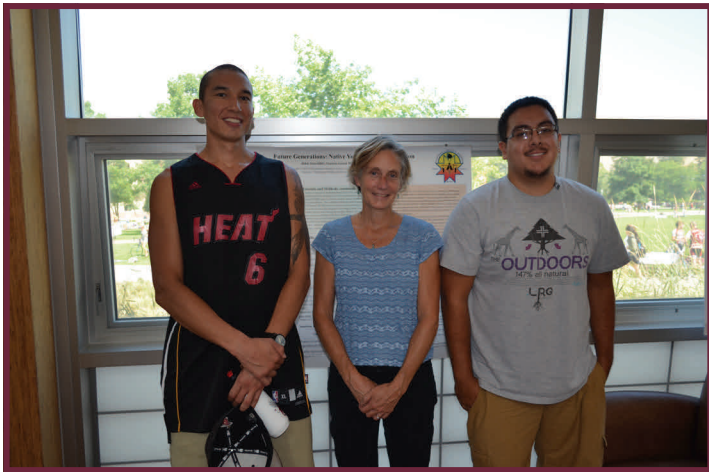
This doctoral fellowship will allow Ms. Smart to collaborate with Intermountain in providing a systematic evaluation of the social impact of the organization's outcomes for children and families. The goals of the fellowship are to 1) assist Intermountain in highlighting its hallmarks of distinction and to determine which segments of its services are invaluable to children and families, and 2) provide UM's Counselor Education Department with consistent data regarding the needs of emotionally distressed children and which interventions are deemed the most impactful on the lives of them and their families.

Intermountain and the University of Montana are furthering their growing collaboration with the establishment of the Intermountain Children's Home Doctoral Fellowship; The University of Montana already offers a graduate course in Intermountain's Relational Development therapeutic approach, and both organizations have collaborated to provide Complete Your Dreams scholarship assistance to Intermountain clients seeking a college degree.

This fellowship is generously funded by UM alumni Warren '65 and Betsy '66 Wilcox. Warren is a former chairman of the UM Foundation Board of Trustees, and Betsy is on the Board of Directors of Intermountain and the Development Advisory Board of the College.



Student Updates



Blakely Brown Again Participates in UM Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program

This federally funded program supports Native American students transferring from a community college to UM, and places these students with UM faculty mentors. Specific areas where students typically need mentorship are 1) literature- where to find the literature they need in the UM databases and how to target research specific to their project, 2) research design, 3) data collection and analysis, 4) interpretation of results, and 5) structure and flow of the entire research process. The faculty mentor also works directly with the student on a research project during the summer. The program culminates in an annual luncheon and viewing of the Bridges students' research posters. This year, the annual festivities took place in the Payne Family Native American Center on August 30, 2013. Dr. Brown, professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, mentored two HHP and Bridges students over the summer - Sunni Rae Gervais, undergraduate in Community Health and transfer student to UM from Blackfeet Community College and John Sunchild, undergraduate in Athletic Training and transfer student to UM from Stone Child College. Both students conducted their Bridges research at the Missoula Indian Center over the summer.

Picture: Dr. Brown (middle) with Bridges student John Sunchild (right) and IIP doctoral candidate, Vernon Grant (left).

College Sciences Sees Second Student Teaching Group Return from India

The Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences has partnered with Kodaikanal International School (KIS) in Kodaikanal, India in an effort to provide student teachers here at UM with international understanding, as well as offering a unique learning experience for students in another country. KIS was established in 1901 as an American boarding school for the children of missionaries in South India. In 1976, KIS became the first International Baccalaureate school and first international school in India by adopting the International Baccalaureate Diploma program; the third school in Asia and one of only 10 schools worldwide to trial the IB Diploma program. Today, Kodaikanal International School is one of India's most prestigious independent academic schools. This past semester, three UM students participated in this partnership and performed their required field experience at KIS. Working with full-time teachers and students from a diverse array of cultural, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds, our student teachers gained an extremely fruitful and unforgettable experience in a classroom setting that they otherwise might not have had an opportunity to see. While in India, Katie Reilly,

Carly Chenoweth, and Jessica Lauwers (pictured here: left to right) actively chronicled their various triumphs, challenges, and overall experiences. To learn more about their specific experiences and time at KIS, contact the Office of Field Experiences at 406.243.2031 or 406.243.4841.





Scholarships

New Scholarship Honors the Legacy of a State Leader in Education

The Montana education community is pulling together to recognize one of its most respected school administrators, Orville Getz, with an endowed scholarship. Getz passed away in 2011, shortly after his retirement as superintendent of the Victor School District in Victor, Mont. A Montana native and UM alumnus, he began his teaching career in Missoula after serving in the Navy. By 1997, he was the principal of Victor High School and Middle School. One year later Getz became superintendent of the Victor School District.

In 2009, the Montana Association of School Superintendents named Getz the Western Montana Regional Superintendent of the Year.

"He was a very progressive superintendent in Montana, responsible for tremendous achievements in education that caught fire and benefitted our whole state," said Roberta Evans, dean of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. "He was truly a statesman among superintendents; student centric; very supportive of teachers; calm and analytical; a steady hand at the wheel. We all loved him."

The Victor School District was the first in Montana to adopt a four-day school week, a move followed by 60 districts throughout the state. Getz also led Victor schools to build and operate a biomass heating system and a new auditorium and library for the high school. Noting Victor High School's extraordinarily high percentage of graduates entering college, many credit Getz's leadership for establishing a culture of achievement.

"Whatever Orville did, he enjoyed himself and that attitude was contagious," said John Matt, chair of the Department of Educational Leadership at UM, who served as superintendent in Hamilton, Mont. concurrent with Getz's time as superintendent. "He was a sane voice you could always rely on to look at a situation with a 360 degree view. It was never black and white

for him. He was easy and fun to work with."

In addition to his position as superintendent, Getz was involved with many community organizations. He served on the Board of Directors for the Montana Educator's Credit Union (MECU) for 10 years, including nine as its chair.

"He was our longest serving director, and dedicated so much time and effort to the credit union's current success and development," says Leslie Womack, president of the MECU. "After he passed away, we knew we wanted to do something to remember him."

Womack says that because so much of his career was focused on supporting up-and-coming teachers, an endowed scholarship, the Orville Getz Memorial Scholarship, took hold as an appropriate way to honor their former colleague, friend and leader.

Committing \$17,500 over the next seven years, MECU has partnered with Carla Getz, Orville's wife, to raise the additional amount necessary to endow the scholarship. In the interim, funds will also be made available prior to the endowment annuitizing, with the first recipient slated for announcement in spring 2014.

"Orville modeled what it means to be a lifelong learner in the field of education," says Susan Harper-Whalen, associate dean of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. "It was my great fortune to work with Orville Getz as a beginning teacher at Lolo Elementary School and again, years later, in his role as superintendent of Victor schools. Across these years and settings, he has inspired countless children and teachers to embrace learning as a joyful journey. What an amazing legacy to be honored through this scholarship."

To contribute to the Orville Getz Memorial Scholarships contact Erika Twedt, director of development and alumni relations for the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences at 800-443-2593 or give online at www.SupportUM.org.

Scholarship Memorializes Colleague, Continues Legacy

By Martin Kidston of the Missoulian



The programs Adrienne Corti built during her tenure in the Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP) at the University of Montana continue to grow, even after her passing, and others are reaping the benefits of her work, both on and off campus.

"She taught the first responder, emergency care and CPR courses, and was certified as a wilder-

ness EMT," said Erika Twedt, director of development and alumni relations for the College of Education and Human Sciences. "She did a lot of work, not just with our college, but with the community."

"She was responsible for my hiring at UM, and I owe much of my professional career to her," said Chris Riley, director of ACTivity Classes and Accounting within HHP. "We'd like to honor her – something to remember her by. We came up with the scholarship idea."

Shortly after 2000, Corti was hired by the Department of Health and Human Performance. As her obituary noted, she found her "work family" within the department. Off and running in her new position, she would come to shape the program. "She pretty much laid the foundation for all of those programs within HHP," Riley said. "We have one of the most diverse activity class programs, as far as peer institutions are compared."

As envisioned, the *Adrienne Corti Memorial Scholarship* will go each year to a UM student with a connection to the outdoors – and a student who is looking to pursue certification as a wilderness emergency medicine technician. Supporters hope to establish it in perpetuity. "Our fundraising goal is \$50,000, as we're trying to do an endowment so it can be given out every year," said Valerie Moody, associate professor in HHP.

"(Corti) was heavily involved and ingrained in our community, not just for UM. This is something we can do to give back to her." Corti brought her own active lifestyle to the program. She served as a ski instructor and a Pro Patroller at Montana Snowbowl. She was active

in Missoula Freestyle and she worked for Aerie Backcountry Medicine. It was this last connection that's so closely tied to the Corti scholarship and the hopes of those behind it. "We thought this would be a great way to honor her and to give that to other students," said Moody.

To donate or find out more, contact Erika Twedt at 406.243.4568 or Erika.twedt@umontana.edu.

New Scholarship Honors Local Woman's Spirit of Service

The *D. Harvey Scholarship for Community Enhancement through Service Learning* was given in memory of Diane L. Harvey. Diane was a Montana native and businesswoman who owned and operated a beauty salon and boutique in Eastern Montana for most of her adult life. She actively gave to her community through service and goodwill. Her acts of kindness bettered the lives of those around her. Diane loved her work and recognized that sometimes the little things one can do for others (like a good haircut) could make a big difference.

This scholarship is given by members of Diane's family who work as professional educators and who value Diane's spirit of service. Students in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences are studying so they may go out in the world and serve their communities.

The impact of students' service on the lives of those around them often goes unrecognized until after the student graduates, receives a degree and enters into a job. Yet, like Diane, the work these students do makes a difference in the lives they touch. We wish to recognize students who are determined and committed to continuing on in their field of study despite the hardships that may come from dedicating their time and efforts to bettering the lives of those around them.



For further information on the *D. Harvey Scholarship for Community Enhancement through Service Learning* or other scholarships in the College of Education and Human Sciences, contact Erika Twedt at 406.243.4568 or Erika.twedt@umontana.edu.



Featured Friends of the College

Family Shows Commitment to Improving Student Quality of Life

Our College is particularly fortunate to have incredibly compassionate and dedicated patrons. Sam and Julie Baldrige are a prime example of such remarkable supporters.

The Baldrige family recently donated to the Department of Counselor Education to support the Healthy Relationships class offered to both undergraduate and graduate students across campus. They were also instrumental in establishing a Clinical Director position to foster this program that benefits so many students at UM.

Sam and Julie's daughter, Maryl Baldrige ('10), was a student in the Counselor Education masters program, focusing on mental health counseling. She had a wonderful experience and was the real inspiration for her family's generosity. In discussing the focus on relationship education with high-risk teens, Maryl stated: "The benefits of these services and education were extraordinary. It was such an effective way to help people improve their quality of life, their health, and their success at the University."

She continued: "We [the Baldriges] were motivated by the positive influence the Department of Counselor

Education has on its students and the people they serve, and the excitement of how much more of an impact it could make if there were funds to empower all of the generous ideas the students and faculty in the program have."

Julie Baldrige ('79) stated: "Our connection truly comes through Maryl. One of the reasons we donate to the University is because we all had such a good experience there."



"We are inspired by the generosity and dedication of the students and professors in the Counselor Education program and at UM. When we see people working so hard and devoting their lives to a cause, whether it is to write a book about a piece of history that has not been told, or to teach young people about love, or to

research a medical intervention for brain damage after an injury...to see a need and have the capacity to respond is such a blessing and we are so grateful to be in a position to do so."

To learn more about how to give to the Department of Counselor Education or to the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, please contact Erika Twedt at **406.243.4568** or at erika.twedt@mso.umt.edu.

We see great things happening here in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences and are thankful for the support you show! Our first priority remains student support and you can help in a number of ways.

For more information about supporting the College, please visit our website at www.supportUM.org or contact Erika Twedt at 406.243.4568 or at erika.twedt@mso.umt.edu.





College Personnel Updates

LAB Pre-school

- **Kristin Dahl Horejsi**, co-director of the Learning and Belonging Pre-School, attended the Montana Association of the Education of Young Children (MTAEYC) Leadership Seminar in Helena, MT. Kristin will be reporting as president of the Missoula Chapter of MTAEYC. The group was updated on early childhood projects throughout the state and within the Governor Steve Bullock's office.

Health and Human Performance

- **Dr. Brent Ruby** recently made his international television debut working with The History Channel and marathon ultra-runner Scott Jurek. Jurek is known for his ability to run in extreme heat and Dr. Ruby and the Montana Center for Work Physiology and Exercise Metabolism traveled to Death Valley, California to test Jurek and his endurance in extreme weather conditions.

Curriculum and Instruction

- **Dr. Lisa Blank** recently attended the *Education Forum on Children* in Beijing, China as a representative of the University of Montana. At this forum Dr. Blank and others shared their respective research on children and science literacy and jointly issued, "Guiding Your Children to Using New Media - 10 Tips for Parents" to the Chinese media.

Institute of Educational Research Services

- **Matt Taylor**, Director of UM's Montana Safe Schools Center delivered a keynote address to the 2014 Montana Conference of Educational Leadership held in Billings, Montana. The talk, entitled "Running Smart or Running Scared? Local implications and national trends of targeted school violence" was part of an initiative within MCEL to highlight school safety issues following in the wake of the December 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. Changes in school policy such as the Senate Bill 348 passed by the 2013 Montana Legislature were discussed at Taylor's keynote as well as in two other sessions Taylor and **John Frederikson**, IERS' Director of Justice Resource Services, led during the conference.

Counselor Education

- A new program has been included to the Counselor Education curriculum, initiated by **Dr. Lindsey Nichols**. The *Helping Skills: Mental Health Facilitation* course was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National

Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). The course's objective is to help students gain competence in listening skills, techniques for working with people in need, and understanding the impact of mental stress, distress, and disorders. Students learn the basics of disaster/trauma response; locating and facilitating connections with community resources; and making referrals to professionals. This training can lead to a certificate of completion and listing in the international registry as a Mental Health Facilitator through the NBCC.

Educational Leadership

- At the Montana Conference of Educational Leadership, **Drs. Matt and O'Reilly** presented on Maximizing Employee Performance with an emphasis on professional relationships. **Dr. McCaw** has also been active in this research. The presentation took place at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, and over 100 attendees rated the session highly for content and relevance. Some participants stated that session was among the best and most interesting they had attended at MCEL.
- **Dr. John Matt** was also active in the presentation and display of Success at the Core during MCEL. Success at the Core is a set of free professional learning materials for educators. The Department of Educational Leadership is proud to partner with MEA/MFT, the Montana Office of Public Instruction, and School Administrators of Montana to promote Success at the Core.

Communicative Sciences and Disorders

- **Lucy Hart Paulson**, chair and associate professor, provided a two-day presentation at the "Get Ready Early for the Common Core" conference on early literacy learning and instruction sponsored by the Center for Development and Learning in New Orleans, LA.
- Assistant Professor **Catherine Off**, Assistant Professor **Annie Kennedy**, and graduate student, **Jenna Griffin**, of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, were interviewed by Andrew Visscher of the Montana Kaimin. The article, *Getting the word out: Therapy program helps students with aphasia*, described aphasia and the Big Sky Aphasia Program at the University of Montana that was developed to help stroke and brain injury survivors regain their ability to communicate.



Publications/Grants/Contracts

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Gosnell-Lamb, J., L. **O'Reilly, F., & J. Matt, J. (2013).** Has No Child Left Behind Changed the Face of Leadership in Public Schools?. *Journal Of Education And Training Studies*, 1 (2), 211-216.

O'Reilly, Francis, William P. McCaw, John Matt, and Patricia Kero. (2013). International study tours: An avenue for personal growth. *Journal of Cultural Diversity*, 20(4).

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