October 2021 Newsletter
UM Hosts Irish Ambassador and Consul General

Dan Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to the U.S., and Irish Consul General, Robert O’Driscoll

Both the Ambassador and Consul General were very impressed by the depth of UM’s and the Missoula community’s partnerships with University College-Cork and Ireland. Ambassador Mulhall has offered to speak to the UM Journalism students planning to participate on our faculty-directed program to Ireland next summer. He will provide them with an introduction to Ireland’s history and culture and CG O’Driscoll will facilitate professional/industry connections in Ireland to support the program.

Also part of the discussion was how Ireland’s new working holiday program, along with these industry ties, could play in nicely with our actionable items for Priorities For Action #4 this year.

Check out this web page, published by UM Journalism students, to learn more about UM Journalism Abroad, Northern Ireland, and participate in a series of interactives that allow you to explore the region, the history and art of a unique region of the world.

Dr. Sarah Halvorson Provided Insight on Kashmir
Dr. Sarah Halvorson, Faculty in Geography, gave a great interview for the Missoulian regarding Kashmir. The article, written by Rob Chaney, is titled "Kashmir: Regional instability doesn't stop food effort"

- Missoulian, September 12, 2021

Click here to read an article published in The Missoulian

“Garage” Community Exhibition Project a Great Success!

Pictured above: Cora Stegmann, left, and Martin Leibinger: Garage Organizers
The ‘Garage’ was a free-to-the-public exhibition project in Missoula MT, that involved local communities in making art together with international artists. The project resulted in artworks based on exchange among people.

“Sometimes art can change things in real life,” Leibinger said. “I don’t say that it has to, but I just like the idea that art can trigger some dynamics, which in the end kind of could make some difference in life.”

Click here to read an article published in The Missoulian

International Students and Scholars Partners with Chi Alpha for Student Trip to Yellowstone

September 17–19, ISS partnered with campus service organization Chi Alpha for a student trip to Yellowstone National Park. 55 attendees, 25 of whom were international students, had the opportunity to visit famous sites such as Mammoth Terraces, the grand Prismatic Spring, Old Faithful, and many more! Students camped out each evening in the sanctuary of Chi Alpha’s partner church in Livingston which also provided hot meals to all the students. On Sunday, students had the choice to visit Chico Hot Springs or Lewis & Clark Caverns.

Interested in volunteering to assist with a future field trip? Email iss@umontana.edu
In-Person Visa Interview
Exceptions Expanded

On September 14, 2021, the U.S. Deputy Secretary for Management authorized consular officers through the end of 2021 to expand the categories of academic visas (F, M, & J) whose applications can be adjudicated without an in-person interview. While this applies only to non-U.S. citizens who are nationals of eligible countries (details about country eligibility can be found on the website of the relevant consulate or embassy), this expansion will have a significant positive impact for many prospective international students and scholars who wish to join the UM community. The International Students & Scholars Office will continue to update campus as information becomes available.
Relax Restrictions for Vaccinated Int'l Travelers

On September 20, 2021, the Biden administration plans to lift geographic travel ban restrictions in November for individuals who establish that they are fully vaccinated if they also show results of a negative coronavirus test performed on a specimen taken during the three days preceding their flight’s departure from a foreign country traveling to the United States. The covered countries are: Brazil, China, India, Iran, Ireland, Schengen Area (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland), South Africa and the United Kingdom. The International Students & Scholars Office will continue to update campus as information becomes available.

UM Now Offering World Competencies Certificate

This certificate, through the World Languages and Cultures Department, will help students be more informed about regions around the world and will help them hone analytical as well as linguistic skills. In addition to course work, students will participate in an international programmatic learning experience, such as study abroad, or international research, work, or service activities. Substitutions for international travel may be made arranged due to covid-based limitations. Closer to home, students participate in eight (8) campus activities with an international focus (these activities are not for credit). Examples of such activities could include participating in club events; attending campus lectures that have an international focus; volunteering to work with high school students at World Language Days; or going to cultural events (art exhibit, theater performance) that have an international theme.

**Degree Specific Credits:** 22–26, depending on the choice of language

**Required Cumulative GPA:** 2.0

For more information refer to [this web page](#)
Taking event submissions!

International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

The Global Engagement Office invites you to submit event proposals for this year’s International Education Week celebration taking place November 15-19 at UM. The events can be virtual, hybrid, or in-person (if they can be flipped to virtual or canceled, if needed). Please reach out to Carissa Luginbill if you have any questions: carissa.luginbill@mso.umt.edu

Submissions due October 15 by Noon

Submit an event proposal here
DiverseU to take place in November

The University of Montana’s 16th Annual Diversity Symposium, DiverseU, will take place **November 2-4, 2021**. Diversity at The University of Montana is an essential component of academic excellence and DiverseU provides an opportunity to contribute to the diversity efforts at UM. This is a campus-wide series of events focused on topics of diversity and promoting civil discourse. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members discuss, present, perform, and exhibit art throughout the event. The DiverseU experience gives you an even broader platform to share your ideas, research, and art in a flexible format. Organizers are accepting workshop and research presentations, poetry and short story readings, discussion topics, art pieces, lectures, vignettes, dances, and more.

**The deadline for submitting proposals is Monday, October 18, 2021.** The proposal form can be found [here](#). If you have any questions about DiverseU, please contact Adrianne Smith at Adrianne.smith@umontana.edu or Emily Ferguson Steger at Emily.steger@umontana.edu.

Biden Administration Calls for ‘Renewed U.S. Commitment’ to International Education

The Biden administration is calling for a unified national approach to international education, saying it is time for a “renewed U.S. commitment” to American higher education and its global connections.

Unlike many other Western countries, the United States has never had a coordinated national strategy for attracting international students or encouraging other forms of global academic collaboration. That’s alarmed international-education groups, which worry that America could lose its competitive edge as the global contest for talented students heats up.

When President Biden took office, NAFSA (Association of International Educators) released a detailed set of policy recommendations for international education, and Brimmer, Executive Director of NAFSA, said some of those proposals could be part of a fleshed-out national strategy. They include increased funding for exchange programs, including virtual study abroad; concrete enrollment targets for foreign-student recruitment; and reforms of immigration and visa policy that would make it easier for international students to come, stay, and work in the United States.

**Read the full article from The Chronicle of Higher Education [here](#)**
With a unique twist on fundraising, Global Gauntlet puts the fun into an annual benefit!

This MWAC “signature” fundraiser engages much of the community, and it’s a team trivia competition like no other, modeled after the Council’s Academic WorldQuest competition. Funds raised from this evening event support the Montana World Affairs Council’s ongoing efforts to increase global awareness and understanding in Montana’s classrooms and communities and especially supports our Global Education Initiatives.

The evening includes a no-host bar, gourmet sit-down dinner, live auction, and six rounds of very spirited global trivia. It’s a "battle of the brains" and proves to be a fun and festive event, every year!

**A Trivia Competition of Global Proportions**

Friday, October 8th  
Doors open at 6:00 PM  
Dinner and Trivia at 6:30 PM

For all questions, please reach out to Nikki Geiszler at ngeiszler@montanaworldaffairs.org.

Thank you to Global Gauntlet Sponsors:

- First Interstate Bank
- Boone Karlberg, Inc.
Upcoming Events

Are you curious about the behind-the-scenes work that goes into building international relationships and tackling global issues? Join the U.S. Department of State for the new seminar series "Inside U.S. Foreign Policy".

**October 14**: U.S. Foreign Policy in Europe and Eurasia

**Join these virtual events**

[Register today!](#)

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Schedule an Appointment with Education Abroad

If you’d like to learn more about studying abroad, or if you’re an international exchange student currently at UM, you can schedule advising appointments.
with the Education Abroad Coordinator, McKennah Andrews, for advising, application assistance, exchange paperwork, and more!

Appointments can be made in-person or virtually. The availability of in-person appointments might be subject to fluctuate, depending on the need to work remotely due to COVID-19.

Schedule your appointment now by clicking the button below.
As we start to see more and more people on campus, please be reminded of CDC and University of Montana COVID-19 guidelines. The Global Engagement Office asks all visitors and members of the campus community to wear a mask while visiting our offices in Lommasson and the International Center. Masks are provided for your convenience at our front reception desks.
Help Promote International Opportunities and Initiate Global Engagement

If you’re interested in connecting with other globally-minded leaders across Montana to help promote international opportunities and initiate global engagement to students and communities across the Big Sky State, then please complete the committee sign-up form below. Anyone is welcome to join – from high school language teachers to university professors, or organizational leaders to international education professionals.

The committee will meet once at the beginning of each semester. Meetings dates, times and locations TBD. There will also be a monthly newsletter in production to come shortly after the first meeting.

If you have any questions or experience any technical difficulty, please contact McKennah Andrews at mckennah.andrews@mso.umt.edu

Sign up here

UM-Sponsored International Travel Protocol
Based on Commissioner of Higher Education guidance for the Montana University system, the following protocol related to UM sponsored international travel is effective immediately. Any UM sponsored travel to countries rated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Level 4 is prohibited. Faculty, staff, and students wishing to travel to countries rated Department of State (DOS) levels 3 or 4 or CDC level 3 are required to petition permission for travel from the UM International Travel Review Committee (ITRC) by submitting a risk management plan with enhanced COVID-specific risk mitigation and contingency plans with final approval by the Provost. UM will conduct a program-specific review on UM-sponsored study abroad programs using a nuanced multi-factorial approach that considers, for example, host nation COVID-19 dynamics, travel and border restrictions, housing and food security, and host organization programming. Students participating in an approved program will be required to participate in an online health and safety orientation and will complete an enhanced risk management plan as part of this required orientation. Every approved traveler is also required to sign a COVID-specific additional agreement and acknowledgement of risk, register their travel, and purchase a GEOBlue International Insurance Plan.

The University of Montana acknowledges that the COVID-19 situation is evolving quickly around the world. As a result, CDC and DOS levels may change with very little notice. The ITRC is committed to reviewing petitions with a quick turnaround to accommodate these changes. We recognize the challenging conditions created for our community by the pandemic while acknowledging its uneven impact around the world.

NOTE: Native students, faculty & staff who have reserves on both sides of the US/Canadian border (individuals covered under Jay’s Treaty) shall be exempt from the travel registry requirement for travel to Canada.

For more information about this announcement, please contact Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry, Associate Director, Global Engagement Office at: MarjaC@mso.umt.edu
representative of the American College of Thessaloniki on Tuesday, September 21st.

Last year 2020, the Education Abroad Office was unable to host foreign representatives from partner universities. We are happy to once again host, strengthen communication, and deepen relationships with partner universities around the world.

Education Abroad
INTERNSHIPS
Apply Now!
Visit the UM Global Engagement Website >> Education Abroad >> Get Involved >> Internships
Or call (406) 243-2278 for more information

Our internships for Fall 2021 are open and on Handshake. These internships will have flexibility around start date, end date, and time off for vacations:

Peer Advisor Internship
Terra Dotta Software & Database Internship
International Partnerships Assistant Internship
Diversity Advocate Internship
Apply Now!

Study Abroad Applications

Summer 2022 faculty-directed study abroad applications are now open! Application deadlines vary. Visit our website for more details. setting up an advising appointment with the Education Abroad Coordinator.

Featured ISEF University:

American College of Thessaloniki

By Carissa Luginbill
Are you the person that has always wanted to travel and Greece is on the top of your list? Let's make it happen! The American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) may be the perfect opportunity for you! ACT is the “road less taken,” a culturally intact city, small, diverse, youthful, at the crossroads of east and west and the gateway to Southeastern Europe.

ACT is one of the few institutions outside the United States with full, free-standing U.S. accreditation by NEASC and EU validation of its undergraduate programs. Choose a wide variety of programs to study; International Relations, Hellenic Studies, Communications & New Media Studies, Computing and more! The student body at ACT is comprised of fifty percent Greek students and international students from approximately 45 countries around the world.

Join the vibrant student body through a wide range of clubs, societies and organizations, an active student government, cultural events, athletics, workshops and special lectures.

Along with being active on campus; engage in the vibrant seaport city of Thessaloniki. Enjoy bustling streets, quaint squares, neoclassical buildings, ancient ruins, sandy beaches, and snow covered mountains.

Intrigued? Get connected. Enjoy the beauty.

For more information visit the University’s website.

Apply now!

Never miss another GEO event or Featured partner university. Subscribe to our newsletter

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The **Global Engagement Office Impact Fund** provides student global learning experiences, faculty international engagement opportunities, and allows the Global Engagement Office to innovate as needs change.

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**Global Engagement Office at the University of Montana**

International Center, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, United States

global.engagement@mso.umt.edu

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