

# BAUCUS

## I N S T I T U T E

### UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



*Max Baucus and Mel Hanes with most of our 2022 cohort of Baucus Leaders, Baucus Climate Scholars, & Baucus Leaders MT*

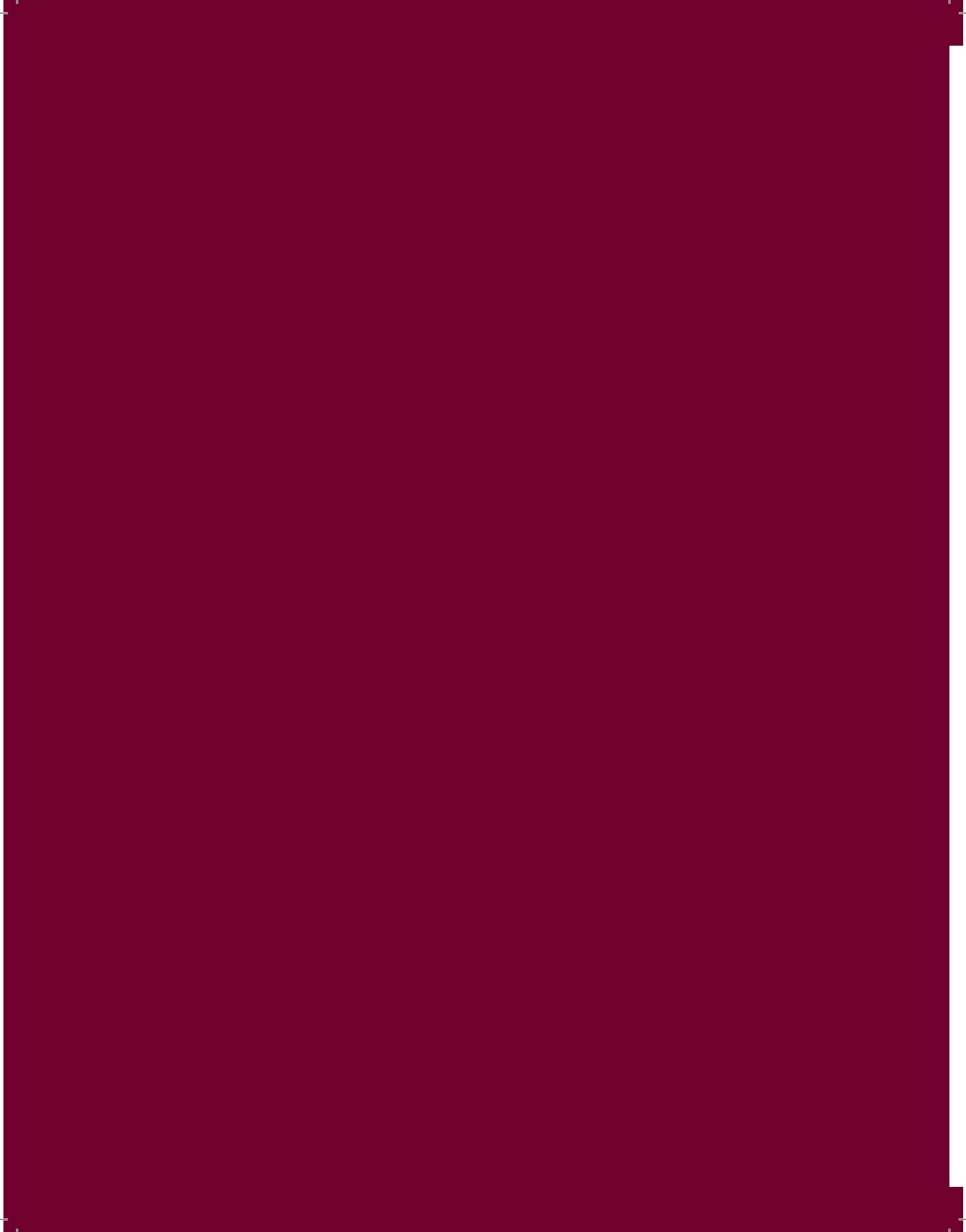
## Dear Friends,

If, as the old saying has it, a picture is worth a thousand words, then the picture above of Max and Mel with some of our 2022 Baucus Leaders and Baucus Climate Scholars is equal to at least a book's worth of words. Our mission at the Institute is to give young people opportunities to see, serve, and lead. Through the generosity of our friends and supporters, the students shown above and introduced elsewhere in this newsletter will soon be taking off for points all over Montana and the United States to see up close how the legislative process works in Washington DC, how companies and advocacy organizations are working to address and ameliorate the social, environmental, and economic impacts of climate change, and much, much more. In doing so they will engage in meaningful and impactful acts of public service that prepare them to return to Montana to act as leaders in their communities, classrooms, and tribes.

As you will read in this newsletter, The Baucus Institute is growing at a rapid pace, with several of our programs doubling in size in the last year as we work to give life-changing experiences to more and more young people such as those shown above to create their own see/serve/lead stories.

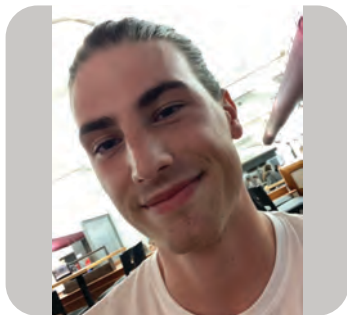
That's enough words from me. Please enjoy getting to know some of these amazing folks in the pages of this newsletter and, as always, never hesitate to reach out to me anytime to discuss the Institute, how you can get involved, or just to say hello.

*Sam Panarella, Executive Director*



# Baucus Climate Scholars: Exponential Growth in 2022

Our Baucus Climate Scholars program is so successful that we are more than doubling the number of placements this summer! This program is rooted in Senator Max Baucus' long and distinguished bipartisan legislative record in environmental and natural resources matters, including his sponsorship of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and his leadership in protecting wild lands along the Rocky Mountain Front. After our inaugural cohort of 4, we are placing 10 Baucus Climate Scholars this summer:



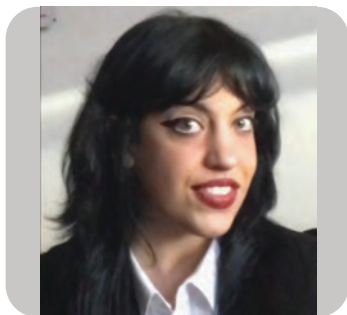
## **Carson Brandt | Wanxiang Corporation**

I am a junior at the University of Montana majoring in political science and minoring in climate change studies and communications. As a Generation Z, I am very concerned about global warming and its impacts like sea level rise, drought, and intensive wildfires. For the sake of making a difference, I applied to be a Baucus Climate Scholar. This summer I'm excited to be working with Wanxiang Corporation to draft a report regarding sustainable topics and I'm super enthusiastic about the final product!



## **John Curnyn | The Nature Conservancy**

I was born and raised in the Ramapo Mountains of northern New Jersey, in Ringwood. I was fortunate to learn and grow in close proximity to nature, which has influenced my life significantly. I feel strongly that a societal transformation is necessary to prepare for a changing climate and this program's approach of working with a diversity of people and organizations to implement climate-focused policy is in line with my interests in collaborative management.



## **Amber Ellison | Northwestern Energy**

Growing up in Lemmon, South Dakota and obtaining a BS in Sustainability at the University of South Dakota developed my interest in the conservation of rural environments. I'm pursuing environmental law at University of Montana specifically due to its rural perspective and emphasis on tribal issues and environmental justice. Being a Baucus Climate Scholar is an exciting chance to get real-world experience and a deeper look into the opportunities and obstacles within Montana's renewable energy development.



## **Nicholas Fitzmaurice | American Enterprise Institute**

I grew up in Mazama, Washington, where I learned to act as a steward of the natural environment. I am currently a junior at Montana State University studying Industrial and Management Systems Engineering with a minor in Sustainability Studies. I wanted to become a Baucus Climate Scholar because I believe that systemic solutions to climate change must originate in public policy



## **Beatrix Frissell | U.S. Forest Service - Lolo**

I am a Presidential Leadership Scholar and Truman Scholar at UM studying political science and environmental science and sustainability. Originally from Polson, Montana on the Flathead Indian Reservation, I am passionate that the needs of minorities and other institutionally oppressed groups are placed at the center of environmental policy. I have brought my interests in the environment, leadership, and equity to the Mansfield Center Student Advisory Council, SEA Change Initiative, and the UM athlete community.





### **Stephen Hayes | Ernst & Young**

Originally from Denver, Colorado, I am a junior double-majoring in history and philosophy. I am keenly aware how critical it is to work quickly toward meaningful solutions to the climate crisis, and this opportunity presents an inimitable opportunity to engage in the work of finding sustainable answers to this existential problem. I plan to attend law school after graduation and hope to continue to work toward climate justice. I also work part-time at a local law firm and volunteer with CASA of Missoula.



### **Aylan Lee | Brookings Institute**

I am a first year law student at UM. Prior to law school, I spent twelve years working in the outdoor industry, where I managed a multi-state river outfitter. I have led rafting trips throughout the west, as well as cycling tours in the Republic of Cuba. I hold a BA and MS in geography, and am a board member of the Great Burn Conservation Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to conservation and stewardship in the Great Burn ecosystem.



### **Alec Skuntz | Climate Reality**

I grew up in Bozeman, MT. I have benefitted from Montana's healthy air and water that exists due to our state's commitment to environmental exceptionalism, and I am committed to ensuring that posterity can benefit from the same. Although Climate is a global problem best solved at national and international levels, many solutions will require work from small groups and communities. I hope my work will be a part of this solution.



### **Elizabeth Vicencio | Climate Reality**

I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Attending UM Law has taught me that there are real solutions to seemingly insurmountable global challenges. Working toward sustainable solutions that improve environmental policy presents U.S. leaders across all sectors with the opportunity to collaborate with leaders in other countries and together create a shared vision, and I am preparing myself to join the efforts.



### **Alex Wicks | Climate Initiative**

My name is Alex Wicks and I am from Fairview Montana. I currently live in Missoula; I have a B.A. degree in political science and am currently pursuing my secondary education license at the University of Montana. I wanted to become a Baucus Climate Scholar because throughout my life I have always been dedicated to taking the necessary steps to protect the environment in any way that I can, and this internship will help to further my experience and efforts.

# Baucus Leaders: Serving in Washington DC Again

We're in our fifth year of the Baucus Leaders program and happy to be sending most of our students to Washington, DC this summer after two years of being remote. We also held a lunch with Ambassador Max Baucus and Mel Hanes for the first time since the pandemic started (along with our Climate Scholars and Baucus Leaders Montana) and students were thrilled to meet with them in person and get advice on how to make the most of their summer internships. Here are the eight Baucus Leaders for summer 2022:



## **Emily Cook | Senator Jon Tester, MT**

I really hope to make a positive impact on the world. I have always loved hands-on experiences that apply what I learn in the classroom. As such I am thrilled to have been awarded the honor to participate in this program. I come from Billings and am at the University of Montana majoring in political science.



## **Maria Goheen | Senator Chuck Grassley, IA**

My name is Maria Goheen and I am from Aurora, Illinois. I am a junior studying Political Science and am on UM's Women's Tennis Team. I wanted to be a Baucus Leader as I am passionate and interested in public policy formation and am hopeful for a future in this field. Being a Baucus Leader is a tremendous privilege and I am honored to have the opportunity to gain experience in our nation's capital.



## **Marita Growing Thunder | Senator Jon Tester, MT**

As an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Dakota and Nakoda tribes in eastern Montana, I grew up practicing leadership through my responsibilities to my culture and my family. At 17 I started a project called Save Our Sisters: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Awareness. In 2018, I was a guest speaker and artist at the Smithsonian in Washington DC and invited to the Senate hearing on matters of violence against Indigenous women and VAWA reinstatement. My career goal is to make a difference politically, especially in ways Native women and LGBTQA+ communities are represented.



## **Jorgia Hawthorne | Senator Chuck Schumer, NY**

I'm Jorgie Hawthorne! I grew up in Great Falls, Montana and I'm a sophomore at UM double majoring in political science and journalism with a minor in nonprofit administration. I have always been interested in politics and my extracurriculars such as ASUM have further compounded that. I'm excited to spend the summer working in a political office!



## **Kevin Northey | Senator Steve Daines, MT**

My name is Kevin Northey, and I was born and raised in Helena, Montana. My passion for public service was instilled in me while working for Governor Greg Gianforte where I saw the effects that government can have on the people who call Montana home. This experience motivated me to serve the people of my home state at the national level as a Baucus Leader. I am elated and grateful for this opportunity and I hope to make effective change in this world.



### **Amy Rathke | Senate Finance Committee**

Originally from western Washington, I attended Willamette University in Salem, Oregon before moving to Wyoming to pursue a career in non-profit conservation and education. After a decade in Wyoming, I split the difference between my two homes and set down roots in Missoula. I was drawn to the Baucus Leaders program primarily because the political advocacy I did for work and on my personal time in Wyoming reaffirmed my desire to seek elected office someday. I hope to use my legal career to shape policy that strengthens communities across Montana.



### **LaRenzo Roanbear | Senator Amy Klobuchar, MN**

My hometown is located on the Northern Cheyenne reservation, in Busby MT. I wanted to become a Baucus Leader because I believe this program will enable me to become a more active and productive person in pursuing my dreams. I have always wanted to be a positive role model for my community, this opportunity is an amazing way to show my community anything is possible, if you put the work in and earn it. Being a Baucus Leader has helped me find my voice and use it in a positive way through policy development, producing positive communication, and creating a deeper understanding between leaders of all kinds. Furthermore, I get the chance to represent my views as a rural tribal member from Montana.



### **Graham Whitney | Senator Michael Bennet, CO**

I am currently a senior majoring in political science at the University of Montana and pursuing minors in History and International Development Studies. The opportunity to be a Baucus Leader excites me because ever since a young age I have been concerned with environmental and criminal issues, and have wanted to pursue a career where I can affect policies that will help both my local community and the country more largely. After college, I am planning to either pursue a law degree or a master's in public policy, and interning for Senator Bennet will provide an opportunity to learn some of the skills necessary to be successful in this pursuit. The Baucus Leaders program has provided me with an opportunity to learn more about public service.

---

## **Strategic Planning with Plenty Consulting in Park City**



This spring, the Baucus Institute traveled to Park City, Utah for a strategic planning session with Plenty Consulting. Principals Jennifer Mulholland and Jeff Schuck led Ambassador Max Baucus, Melodee Hanes, Jim McCray of the Bannack Group, Institute Director Sam Panarella, and Program Manager Mel Brittner Wells through activities aimed at distilling the Baucus Institute's current and future plans.

After filling the space with several flip charts, brisk walks on a mountain trails, and many shared meals and discussions, the final agreement was "We open doors for young people to see, serve, and lead." Our three areas of focus are public service, climate, and US-China relations. We have more, so stay tuned for more communications about our exciting plans.



## Second Cohort of Baucus Leaders Montana Begins

Our second cohort of Baucus Leaders Montana is beginning work this summer! Our first year was very successful, including one of our fellows doing so well that they were hired as a full-time employee by their organization after the summer fellowship.

The Baucus Leaders Montana program is modeled after our DC program, but places students with Montana-based organizations. Their fellowships are project-based and give students who already have jobs and/or the inability to travel for two months the opportunity to participate.



### **Natalia Boise | Missoula Parks & Recreation**

I am a Montana-born activist focused on community engagement and education. As a Fulbright scholar who graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in linguistic anthropology and currently pursuing a graduate certificate in nonprofit administration, I am passionate about nonprofit humanitarian work, equity, community engagement, and intersectional activism.



### **Laura Crist | Missoula County**

I am a community advocate living in Great Falls, Montana. I am pursuing my MPA degree “to see the vision of the future and help lead others there.” I am here to learn and gain tools that can help me better support and empower Montana citizens to feel heard, recognized, and needed. Working with Missoula County, I look forward to learning more about voting policy and helping to preserve democracy in Montana and support street-level bureaucracy and grassroots organizations.



### **Noah Durnell | Montana Legislative Research & Policy Office**

Originally from Great Falls, Montana, I have served as principal oboist for the majority of UM’s premiere ensembles and have won several awards. I am studying entertainment management and nonprofit administration. As the current ASUM President, I represent the interests of students to the administration. As a Baucus Leader Montana, I am eager to continue learning about critical policy review and how to be a better advocate for the people of Montana.



### **Margaret Jensen | Montana League of Cities & Towns**

I am from Power, Montana, a small, rural town. This is my third year at UM where I am studying political science and sociology with a minor in nonprofit administration. I wanted to be a Baucus Leader because it offered me an opportunity to continue to pursue experience in public service, while also exploring organizations I had little previous contact with. Max Baucus has done some incredible work for our state and our country and I feel honored to have been chosen.



### **Stephan Licitra | MT DOJ, Motor Vehicles Division**

I grew up in Missoula, Montana and graduated from the UM with a bachelor’s in biological chemistry with a minor in climate change studies. Afterwards I worked for five years as a librarian for the State Law Library of Montana, where I cared for the collections and built educational resources to help the public interact with the state’s legal system. I believe we should all give back to our communities, to help them grow better and stronger. Being a Baucus Leader will let me serve my community and learn how to make our shared future brighter and better.



### **Nick Mills | UM American Indian Governance Institute**

I was born and raised in Missoula, Montana and am currently a senior studying wildlife biology and pursuing an MPA through the 4+1 program. I was drawn to the Baucus Leaders program due to my interest in public service as a way to conserve wildlife and natural resources by advancing science-based laws and policies. This summer I'll be working on a project aiming to better understand the interaction between tribal and state governments in the United States.



### **Anji Reyner | Montana Nonprofit Association**

As a lifelong resident of Missoula who is employed in local government, the city's strengths and vulnerabilities are central to my experience. The Baucus Leaders program will push me to be decisive and diplomatic in my everyday work and also encourage me to consider how I will best apply my public administration education in the future. I'm grateful for this exceptional opportunity.

---

## **Stockman Bank Speaker Series features John Kerry**



Our Stockman Bank Speaker Series was held in April, with a conversation between John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, and Max Baucus. This event was in partnership with the Montana World Affairs Council, who brought several local youth to the event and sponsored the pre-event reception at the Blewett School of Law.

Sam Panarella, Director of the Baucus Institute, moderated the conversation between the two men who have an extensive history of work in policy. As a U.S. Senator for Montana, Max Baucus sponsored the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and led efforts protecting wild lands along the Rocky Mountain Front. As the U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry was a key negotiator for the Paris Climate Agreement.

The event was hyflex, with over one hundred people in the ALI Auditorium at the University of Montana, and several hundred more participating online through Zoom. Secretary Kerry participated remotely, while Ambassador Baucus and Sam Panarella were on stage at ALI with the live audience.

The discussion centered around the growing threats of climate change, the challenges of uniting political parties around the issue, and the urgency for action. For Secretary Kerry, he noted that the threat of climate change became more real in recent years as intensifying weather events have wreaked havoc across the nation.

Both men noted that climate change is a bipartisan issue and moving forward means finding people who will stand up for what is right and work together. At this point in time, Secretary Kerry noted, it's not a question about how to solve the problem—the science is there—it's a matter of getting everyone in the world on board. "Democracy does not work on autopilot," he said. "I believe we can win the battle. But we can't win it by ignoring it... We have to break the logjam for innovation to happen."



## Institute Receives \$800k to Build Programs and Access

We are thrilled to announce that we recently received \$800,000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. A \$500,000 grant from the Gates Foundation will help students from underserved and rural communities in Montana, including tribal communities, participate in our programs. A second \$300,000 gift from the Hewlett Foundation will help us build program capacity and support students.

“The institute is furthering Ambassador Baucus’ career-long focus on public service and providing opportunities for students to engage in the world by participating in public service,” said Sam Panarella, Director. “Those are important goals for both foundations, so there was a great fit with what they support and what we do.”

By providing training, education and internship opportunities, we prepare current and future leaders to address the critical legal and policy challenges facing Montana, the United States and the world. With this new funding, we will provide more opportunities, increase access to underserved students and create more diversity in our pools of applicants and admitted students. This includes recruiting students to apply, providing them with financial assistance and hiring staff to support the expanding programs.

Currently, our programs include three distinct leadership opportunities: Baucus Leaders, Baucus Climate Scholars, and Baucus Leaders Montana. Additionally, we have the Stockman Bank Speakers series, study abroad experiences in China and Ireland, as well as nationally recognized academic programs through our Department of Public Administration and Policy.

LaRenzo Roanbear, a first-year UM law student also working toward earning his Master of Public Administration, will intern with U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar this summer. “I have always wanted to be a positive role model for my community and represent my views as a rural tribal member from Montana,” Roanbear said. “Getting to network with experts and professionals in law, policy and communications and other movers and shakers has opened my eyes to the possibilities I can take advantage of.”

*“My vision for the institute when I returned to Montana from China was to inspire young people to engage in public service and to give them access to life-changing opportunities to do so.*

*“I am impressed by the impact these students are having on their communities, our state and the entire country through the experiences they have in our programs. I believe that Montanans, and particularly our young people, have a tremendous amount to contribute to the most pressing issues of the day, including combatting climate change, increasing social justice and strengthening the rule of law.”*

—Max Baucus



# DPAP: Record Graduates and New Academic Programs

Our Department of Public Administration and Policy (DPAP) has been growing in both numbers and offerings over the past several years. One exciting measure is the number of Master's of Public Administration program graduates: we had 56 graduates this spring, compared to nine graduates in 2014. We're proud of all our alumni, most of whom go on to have careers in public service at city, state, and national levels throughout Montana and the entire country.

One of this year's graduates was the first from the 4+1 Wildlife Biology/MPA program, where a UM student can get both their BS in wildlife biology and MPA in five years instead of six.

New programs this year include a joint MPA/MSW (master of social work) degree, an undergraduate certificate in public policy, a graduate certificate in poverty policy, and a graduate certificate in law, public administration and policy. We're proud of DPAP for being responsive to Montana's workforce needs and continuing their mission to train the best and brightest for careers in public and nonprofit-sector service.



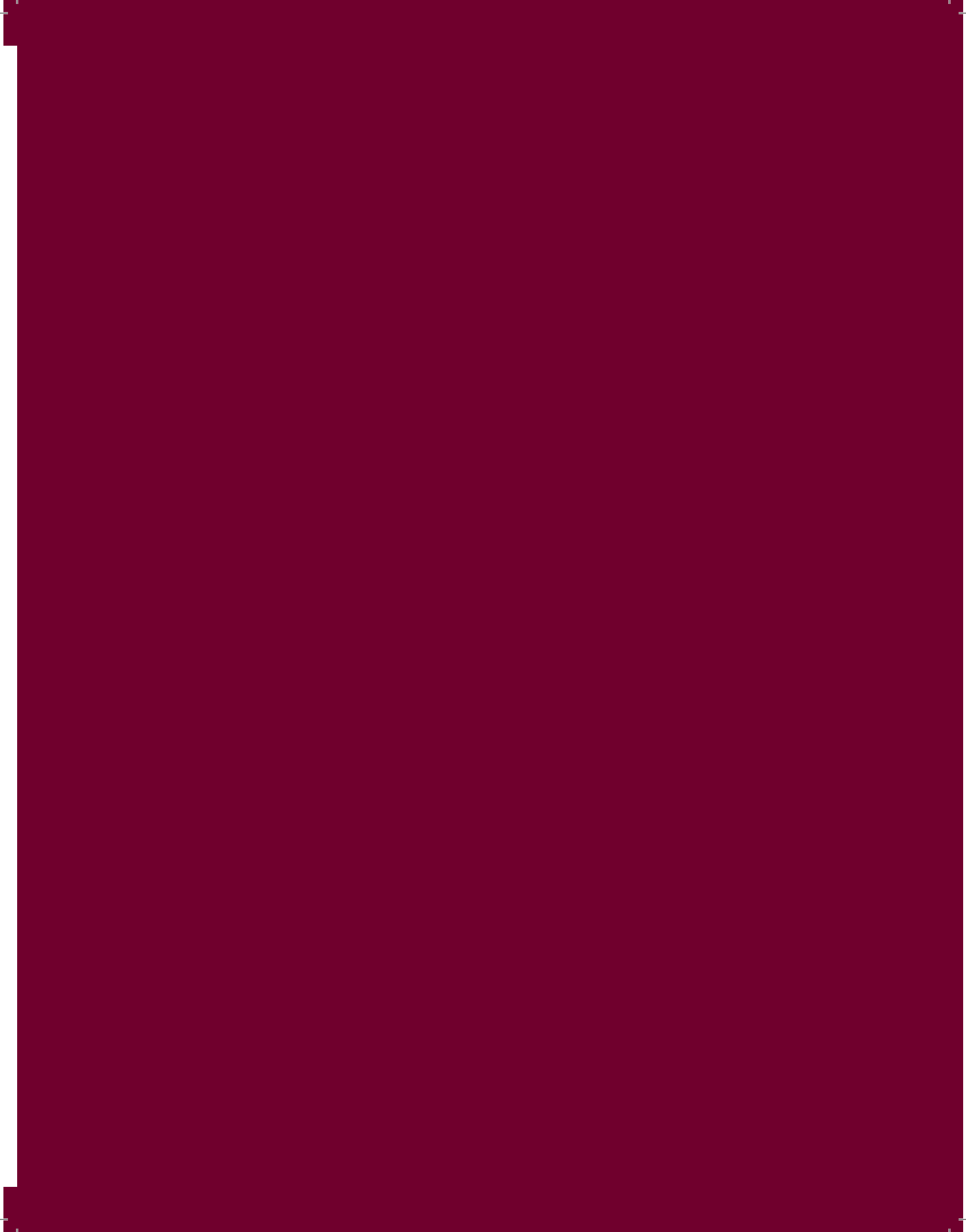
*Partnerships with generous donors enable our programs to grow and inspire more students to public service.*

*Will you join us?*

We welcome your contribution and offer many ways to make your tax-deductible donation:

- Online at [www.baucusinstitute.org](http://www.baucusinstitute.org)
- Mail your check to: Baucus Institute  
32 Campus Drive  
Missoula, MT 59812
- Through a donation of stock, gift annuities, or an estate gift

For more information on giving or our programs, contact Sam Panarella, Director of the Baucus Institute, at 406.243.6623 or [samuel.panarella@umontana.edu](mailto:samuel.panarella@umontana.edu).





Alexander Blewett III School of Law  
32 Campus Dr. (MLA102)  
Missoula, MT 59812-6522

**BAUCUS**  
I N S T I T U T E  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Spring 2022 Newsletter



*Public service is the most noble human endeavor.*

*Max*