

Academic Affairs

Newsletter



Deadlines, Milestones, and Good Company

End of semester brings deadlines, milestones, and moments worth pausing for. This week's AA Newsletter covers summer course guidelines, an open director position, a statewide research highlight, and several events - including a few farewells to colleagues who have shaped this university. Here's what's ahead for Academic Affairs.



Summer 2026 Course Cancellation Guidelines

The UM Summer Office is asking colleges to provide at least two weeks' notice before canceling any Summer 2026 course. Key cancellation deadlines are May 4 for the 10-week and 5-week Session I courses (beginning May 18), and June 8 for 5-week Session II courses (beginning June 22).

To cancel a course, the Chair/Director, Associate Dean, or Dean should email the Registrar's Office at Registrar_Rooms@mso.umt.edu with the course subject, number, and CRN, copying the UM Summer Office at UMSummer@mso.umt.edu and the college Dean. Note that instructors of record cannot initiate cancellations.

The UM Summer Office can also follow up directly with enrolled students upon request.

Questions? Contact the UM Summer Office at UMSummer@mso.umt.edu.

[Visit the UM Summer website](#)

Summer and Fall 2026 Course Materials, Please Review and Update

The April 15 deadline for Fall 2026 course materials has passed, but the Bookstore is still accepting updates.

If you are teaching this summer, please take a moment to log into the [Bookstore's Textbook website](#) and confirm that your course materials are accurate. If updates are needed, you can still submit changes.

Timely and accurate adoptions help students plan and budget before the semester begins, especially those using financial aid. Early information also increases access to lower-cost options such as used, rental, and digital materials.

If no materials are required or you are using Open Educational Resources, please indicate that clearly so students know what to expect.

Submit your adoption through Canvas by following the instructions linked below, in the Bookstore, or by email at 2340txt@follett.com.

[Course Materials Canvas Adoption Instructions](#)

The Big Event - Sign Up to Volunteer

The Big Event, UM's annual campus-wide day of service, returns on Saturday, April 25. Recognized nationally for its commitment to community and public service, UM brings faculty, staff, and students together each spring to contribute to the campus and broader Missoula community before celebrating together on the Oval.

This year's event is a chance to show up, give back, and close out the academic year alongside colleagues and students. Volunteers are encouraged to register in advance.

[Sign up to volunteer for The Big Event](#)

Cheer on UM Students at Forestry Days

Forestry Days, hosted by the UM Woodsman's Team, brings together amateur athletes and elite professionals from around the world for a day of competition - and UM students get to compete right alongside them. The event offers students real-world experience, exposure, and mentorship, capped off by professional seminars sharing techniques and career insights.

Academic Affairs colleagues are encouraged to come out and support UM students as they take on the challenge. From axe throwing to hot saw competition, it's a one-of-a-kind event worth showing up for.

[Learn more about Forestry Days](#)

A Small Step That Can Make a Big Difference for Your Graduates

The Office of Disability Equity (ODE) and the Registrar's Office are offering graduates an optional opportunity to preview and practice navigating the Adams Center before Commencement. For students who benefit from predictability or reduced uncertainty, this advance visit can meaningfully support their ability to fully participate in this milestone event.

Preview times are available May 7-8, and a quiet space (The Trailhead) will be available during the ceremony. Faculty and staff are encouraged to share this opportunity with degree candidates.

Students should RSVP before May 7 - ODE will follow up to coordinate a time.

[Student Commencement Preview RSVP](#)

Humanities Institute Seeks New Director

The Humanities Institute at the University of Montana is seeking a new Director to guide the Institute through a period of growth and renewal. The position is open to current and former UM faculty holding a PhD in the Humanities, and carries a three-year term beginning August 2026 with a \$5,000 annual stipend.

The Director will lead fundraising efforts, organize events that highlight humanities research and scholarship, facilitate grants and prizes, and work alongside the Faculty Advisory Board to shape the Institute's future.

Interested faculty are invited to submit a letter of application and CV to humanities.institute@mso.umt.edu. Review of applications begins April 30.

[Learn more about the Humanities Institute](#)



UM Researchers Help Build Statewide Air Quality Monitoring Network

Research from UM's School of Public and Community Health Sciences is making a statewide impact. Professor Curtis Noonan and colleagues partnered with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality on PurpleAirs in Schools, a program deploying low-cost air quality sensors at high schools across Montana to track wildfire smoke and particulate matter - indoors and out.

UM's contribution includes developing the correction algorithm that makes sensor data interpretable for schools, and extending the program's reach beyond outdoor air into indoor environments. The initiative has drawn national attention, with Montana featured as one of six case studies in a recent American Lung Association report. Several other states have since looked to Montana's model as a template.

[Read the full story in the Daily Montanan](#)

Dean Candidate Open Forums, HSS and COS

Faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend open forums for finalists in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) and College of Science (COS) dean searches. These sessions offer an opportunity to hear from candidates and provide feedback.

HSS finalists:

- Michael Cripps, Monday, April 27 at 2:30 p.m. in UC Theater
- Michael Lynn, Wednesday, April 29 at 2:30 p.m. in UC Theater
- Lisa Parks, Monday, May 4 at 2:30 p.m. in UC Theater

COS finalists:

- Leslie Rissler, Monday, April 27 at 10:30 a.m. in UC Theater
- Alistair Smith, Monday, May 4 at 10:30 a.m. in UC Theater

View CVs, RSVP, and find additional details on the HSS and COS dean search websites linked below.

[HSS Dean Search Website](#)

[COS Dean Search Website](#)



EVENTS



[Learn More and RSVP on GrizHub](#)

AI & Sustainability: Updates, Advocacy, and Practical Tools
1:30 to 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, Employee Learning Space

This workshop explores AI's environmental impacts on Montana's energy, water, and policy landscape alongside practical guidance for using AI tools thoughtfully in everyday work. Faculty, staff, and students are welcome - space is still available.

Mansfield Dialogue with Kristin Vekasi and Bryce Ward

One Year After "Liberation Day": Assessing Trump's Trade Policy

Join Mansfield Chair of Japan & Indo-Pacific Affairs Kristin Vekasi and economist Bryce Ward as they examine the strategic goals, economic outcomes, and global implications of the Trump administration's trade agenda.

MANSFIELD DIALOGUES

Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 pm MT in the Dell Brown Room at Turner Hall or virtually via Teams. Reception for in-person participants starts at 6:00 pm MT

[Register for In-person Attendance](#)

[Register for Virtual Attendance](#)

Mansfield Dialogue: One Year After "Liberation Day" Tariffs **6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, April 23, Dell Brown Room, Turner Hall**

Join Mansfield Chair of Japan and Indo-Pacific Affairs Kristin Vekasi and economist Bryce Ward for a discussion on U.S. trade policy one year after the "Liberation Day" tariffs. The speakers will examine strategic goals, economic outcomes, and global implications, including impacts on U.S. industry and consumers, responses from major trading partners, and effects on America's global standing.

Celebrating the life of

F. RICHARD HAUER

SEPTEMBER 23, 1951 - OCTOBER 29, 2025

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND IMPACT OF OUR HUSBAND, FATHER, FRIEND, AND TEACHER

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
1-3 PM

ALI Auditorium
Phyllis J. Washington Education Building, University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

Stream the Celebration of Life for F. Richard Hauer

Celebration of Life for F. Richard Hauer

1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 25, ALi Auditorium, Education Bldg

The UM community is invited to celebrate the life of Dr. F. Richard Hauer, Professor Emeritus of Stream and River Ecology and founder of UM's Institute for Ecosystems, who passed away October 29, 2025. Attend in person or join via livestream.



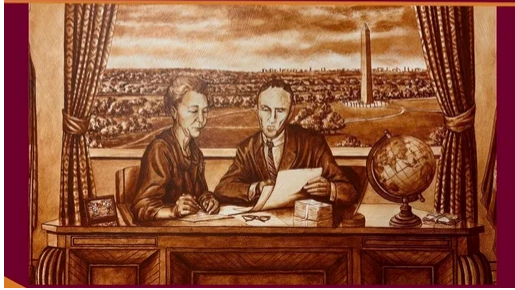
[More Details on GrizHub](#)

Retirement Reception for Tobin Miller Shearer

3 to 5 p.m., Friday, May 1, Davidson Honors College Lounge and Patio

After 17 years at the University of Montana, Tobin Miller Shearer - History Professor and Director of the African American Studies Program - is retiring. The History Department invites all Academic Affairs colleagues to join them in celebrating his contributions to the university and wishing him well on what comes next.

***Mansfield Mural II Unveiling:
The U.S. Senate: Stewardship
and Statesmanship***



Learn More and RSVP on GrizHub

**Mural Unveiling: The Senate Years of Mike Mansfield
5:30 to 7p.m., Tuesday, May 6, Mansfield Center**

The Mansfield Center invites the UM community to the unveiling of the second mural in a three-part series on Senator Mike Mansfield's life and legacy, created by Missoula muralist Hadley Ferguson. The event is free and open to the public.



SUBMISSIONS

Use the AA Newsletter Submission Form button below to share your content with the Academic Affairs sector. To be considered for next Monday's newsletter, submissions need to be received by Friday at 10:00 AM.

AA Newsletter Submission Form

University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812

[Manage preferences](#)