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New Quizzes, Old Traditions

Classic Quizzes in Canvas are on their way out, while the Stole of Gratitude is a Commencement tradition worth passing along to students. This issue also covers the launch of the 2026-27 Student Learning Assessment cycle, faculty regalia orders due November 14, a graduation survey request, an opportunity for STEM faculty, and events through mid-November.

UPDATES

Student Learning Assessment Launches

Yesterday the Office of the Provost opened the 2026-27 Student Learning Assessment (SLA) cycle. The purpose is a faculty conversation: what matters most in our programs, are students learning it, and how do we know? Chairs and program directors will recieve direct outreach about the process as well.

SLA is the new name for Program Assessment, redesigned after accreditation recommendations. It works alongside Academic Portfolio Review and the eight-year Program Review cycle. It is designed to capture and build on what programs already do to assess their programs.

What is new:

- Assessment is rooted in Program Learning Outcomes.

- Three discipline-specific narrative templates: Humanities and Arts, Social Science and STEM, and Professional and Clinical.
- A curriculum map for every program. A first draft is enough; gaps surfaced while mapping are part of the process.
- Programs assess every year and report every two years, in January 2029 and 2031.

How we can help:

- Templates, a mapping guide, and the AAC Review Form are on the SLA page now.
- Arrange a workshop for your faculty in November and December.
- Programs choose how they submit; one narrative and one curriculum map file is the minimum.

SLA files are due Monday, February 1, 2027. The Assessment Advisory Committee (AAC) will send feedback in April.

Contact Amy Ratto Parks to request a workshop.

Learn more on the Student Learning Assessment webpage

Faculty Regalia Orders Due November 14 for Commencement

Faculty are invited to participate in UM's Commencement ceremony on Friday, December 11, 2026, at the Adams Center. Additional details about faculty participation will be shared closer to the ceremony.

Faculty who plan to rent regalia can place orders by November 14, 2026, through the Faculty Cap and Gown Ordering site using:

- Customer Number: 25000519000
- Order Number: 5629316

Orders will ship to UM and be available for pickup the week of Commencement. Please keep these ordering details within the faculty community and do not share them with students.

Regalia Questions? Contact Ken Gather.

Learn more about Fall Commencement

Stole of Gratitude at Commencement

The Stole of Gratitude is a maroon stole that graduates may wear with their regalia at Commencement. After the ceremony, graduates give it to a special person who supported them during their academic career.

Students order the stole through Herff Jones, either as part of a Graduation Package or as an add-on to a regalia-only order. The student ordering deadline is November 20.

Faculty and staff can help by sharing the tradition with December graduates through classes, advising conversations, and department communications. A brief mention can encourage students to think about who they would like to thank.

For details on the stole and other regalia, see the Commencement Regalia webpage linked below.

Commencement Regalia webpage

Transition to New Quizzes in Canvas

Canvas no longer supports Classic Quizzes, so UM will phase them out by Summer 2027. There is time to transition, and support is available.

This fall, faculty are encouraged to begin using New Quizzes and to bulk migrate existing quizzes when importing content into Spring 2027 courses.

What to expect in Spring 2027:

- Classic Quizzes already in a course will remain usable during the semester.
- The ability to create new Classic Quizzes will be turned off, so all newly created quizzes will be New Quizzes.
- When you import into a future course shell, Classic Quizzes will migrate to New Quizzes automatically.

New Quizzes offers more question types, item banks that can be shared across courses and with other instructors, and student accommodations that can be set at the course or individual quiz level.

To get started, review the New Quizzes and Item Banks tip sheet linked below, explore LEAD's 10-minute trainings, or book an office hour with an Instructional Designer.

Questions? Contact LEAD.

New Quizzes and Item Banks tip sheet

Support the UM Graduation Survey

The UM Graduation Survey (First Destination Survey) captures what graduates do next, including employment, graduate school, and service programs. Results guide program improvements and support student success.

Last year's response rate was 28%, and this year's goal is 50%. So far, only 5% of December graduates have responded. Other sources cover about 70% of graduates, but student responses offer firsthand insight into experiences, goals, and satisfaction.

If it fits your plans, you can help by:

- Promoting the survey in newsletters, websites, or graduation materials with the print flyer, digital flyer, or PowerPoint slide.
- Setting aside 5 to 10 minutes in class for students to complete the survey, discussing why it matters, or offering extra credit for proof of completion.

Students who complete the survey are entered to win an Instax camera bundle. Past results appear in the Student Outcomes Dashboard and in annual ElevateU reports. Thank you for helping tell the story of UM graduates' next steps.

UM Graduation Survey

NEWS

Taiwan Opportunities for STEM Faculty

Taiwan's Ministry of Education has established the U.S.-Taiwan Semiconductor Education Alliance, bringing together 33 Taiwanese universities that offer short-term training, exchange programs, degree programs, and other collaborative initiatives. The Alliance follows the Freedom 250 Workforce First Summit in Taipei on August 31, where 150 U.S. and Taiwanese leaders explored how higher education can align with the needs of key high-tech industries.

STEM faculty, department leads, and researchers interested in short-term internship or study opportunities in Taiwan are welcome to connect with the Mansfield Center. For background, read the AIT announcement on the Freedom 250 Workforce First Summit linked below.

Questions? Contact Liz Barrs, Deputy Director, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center.

American Institute in Taiwan announcement

EVENTS



Join the Canvas Commons training

LEAD Training: What's New in Canvas Commons

10:00 - 10:10 AM, Tuesday, Nov. 3, Virtual

Learn what's new in Canvas Commons and how to search for, preview, and import ready-made modules, pages, and activities. Reusing and adapting existing content can save time as you build your course. A recording will be available after the session if you can't join live.



Accountability and Leadership: Elouise Cobell's Legacy in Native Women's Governance

1:00 - 3:15 PM, Thursday, Nov. 5, Payne Family Native American Center

Join a panel of Native women legislators, moderated by Senator Lea Whitford, for stories of leadership in the spirit of Elouise Cobell. The program opens with a prayer and honor song, with the panel running from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. Supported by the Jeannette Rankin Foundation, AAUW, and American Indian Student Services.



Learn more about Indigenous Mentoring Program on GrizHub

Indigenous Mentoring Program (Part 2)

9:00 - 10:30 AM, Friday, Nov. 6, Employee Learning Space, Lomasson 2nd floor

Led by Professor Ciara Hansen, Director of INPSYCH, this session uses Attachment and Developmental Theories to explore how mentors can build a secure, culturally grounded base for Native students, including reflection on how historical assumptions shape cross-cultural mentoring. Participants will leave with practical ways to recognize and respond to students' needs with cultural humility and build trust.

Register for the ORCHID Workshop on GrizHub

Save Time and Get Credit with ORCHID

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Friday, Nov. 13, Mansfield Library, Theta Rho Room

Learn how a free ORCID iD can save you time and help you get credit across funding, publishing, and research reporting, including federal requirements and new work types for the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Open to the campus community, the 11 a.m. webinar with ORCID program specialists is followed by an in-person workshop at noon to set up your iD and connect it to UM Impact; remote attendees can register for Zoom attendance.

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

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