

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA-MISSOULA

FALL 2005

# montana

An abstract painting of a face, rendered in a style reminiscent of Vincent van Gogh's 'Owl' or 'Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear'. The face is composed of bold, expressive brushstrokes in shades of purple, blue, red, and yellow. The eyes are dark and intense, and the overall composition is dynamic and textured.

NANCY ERICKSON AND HER ART

PHARMACY RISING

TRAVELING MONTANA

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MONTANAN FALL 2005  
VOLUME 22 NUMBER 3

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Voluntary Subscription: \$15

Web site: [www.themontanian.us](http://www.themontanian.us)

#### ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Lowell Hanson

(406) 728-3951

The *Montanian* is published three times a year by The University of Montana for its alumni and friends.

#### Change of address:

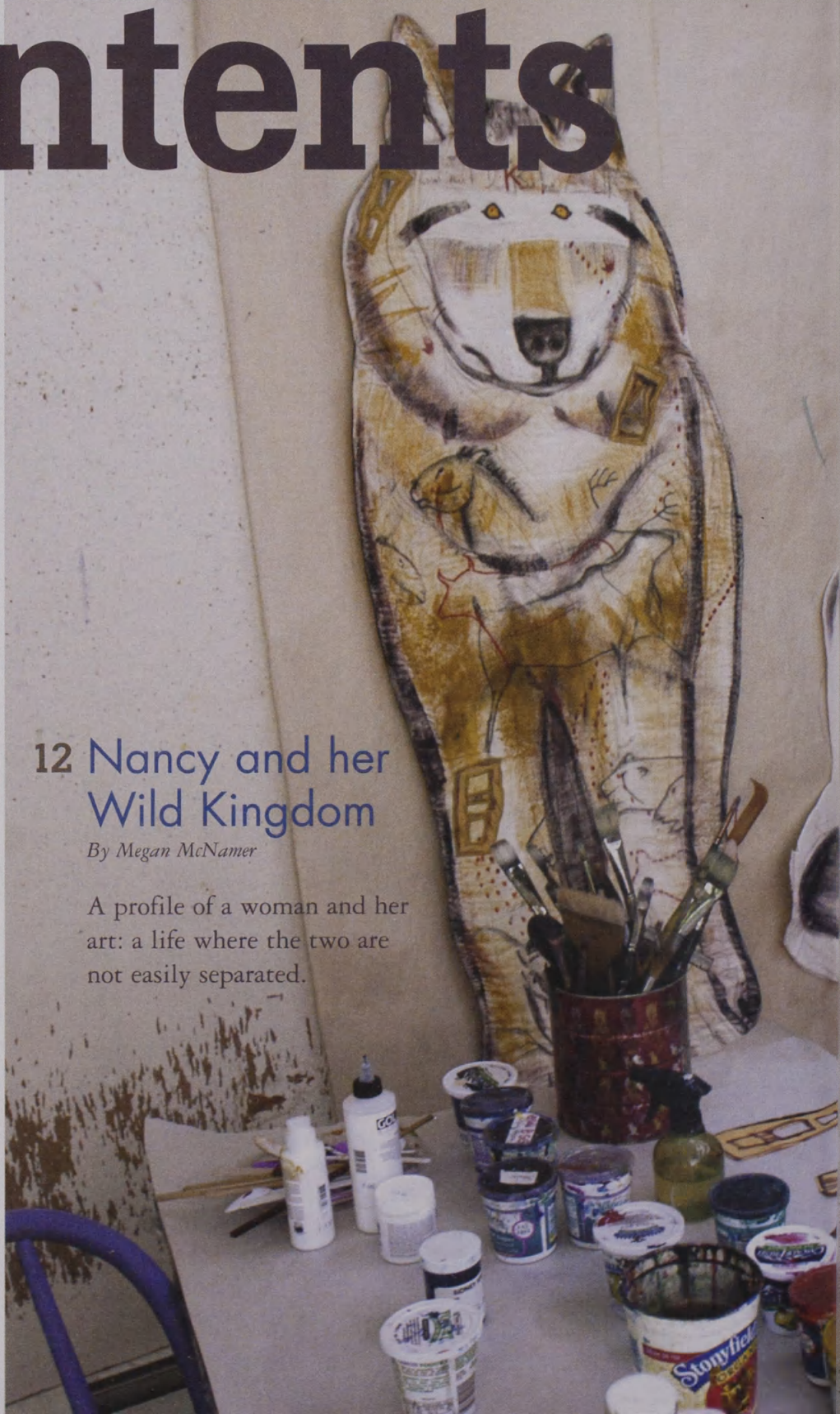
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## QUESTIONS NOT ASKED

**I**t's funny what you learn through a readership survey. The *Montanan* staff conducted a telephone survey in May using volunteers from University Relations, the UM Foundation, the Alumni Association, and UM Student Advocates. I was around to organize things, and what I found most enjoyable was the bubbling over of voices when callers took a break from the phones. They were retelling stories and anecdotes gathered from our readers.

I learned more about the raven that was mentioned in the story on John J. Craighead in our last issue. It seems Craighead's raven friend, Rudy, who visits him almost daily at his home near Miller Creek in Missoula, is a neighborhood pest. One of the women who participated in the survey said Rudy should have gotten more space in the article because he's quite a prankster. John's neighbors have had to bird-proof their mailboxes; it seems, among other hi-jinks, Rudy has developed a penchant for raiding mail.

A man who received an MFA from UM's creative writing program shared various stories about Richard Hugo with our caller. He talked about the first reading series the creative writing folks held in a bar in Missoula and the caller and volunteer agreed it was an experience to hear Hugo read his own poems.

Another man asked, "What ever happened to David Rorvik?" Rorvik was a talented and controversial *Montana Kaimin* editor in the late '60s who went on to write science pieces for *Time* and the *New York Times*. In the late '70s he created a controversy with the publication of *In His Image: The Cloning of a Man*. I thought I'd google him and see what came up. I found Rorvik is still writing science pieces and publishing books. His latest book is *How to Choose the Sex of Your Baby*. One blog I found went into quite a discussion of *In His Image* and mentioned that Rorvik had defended his earlier book in an article in a 1997 *Omni*, which came out after the first sheep cloning. I checked the Mansfield Library to see if they had *Omni* and learned it had gone out of publication in 1995, so the 1997 date obviously was wrong. I tried to find *Omni* online, but when I typed in the URL, I was taken directly to *Penthouse* magazine. Weird. I then went to

## ARTIFACTS IDENTITY REVEALED

Dear Editor Joan:

Love the *Montanan* ... and read every word! Imagine my surprise when I got to the last page [of the Spring 2005 issue], "Artifacts" and saw my picture! The one with the sailors and the girl with the AWVS armband. Here's the story about it: It was taken at the Northern Pacific Depot, some time in the fall of 1944. Many troop trains came through Missoula from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station on their way to port of embarkation at Seattle. Other trains came with soldiers, going to Fort Lewis or other POE destinations. Since it was wartime, troop movement was carefully kept confidential. But the station master would know when a troop shipment was coming, and if the hour was convenient, he would call Mrs. Mulroney, wife of Thomas Mulroney, a prominent local attorney. [She] was the coordinator of American Women's Voluntary Services for Missoula.

If appropriate to serve the train, she would call a few of the carefully selected girls at the U to spread the word and time for the AWVS

**Lila Lee Lister provides treats for Navy enlisted men in 1944 [from Artifacts in the Spring 2005 *Montanan*].**



volunteers to show up at the depot. Those of us who could take the time that day would pick up our armbands and the filled boxes for distribution and go to the depot. The box I'm holding probably had donuts for the fellas. Other days it might have been sandwiches, cookies, candy bars, or even cigarettes. Then back to classes without telling anyone about the train. So, that's the story. Thanks for the memories!

**Lila Lee Lister (now Lincoln) '47**  
Sacramento, California

## THEN AND NOW

Editor's Note: While participating in our readership survey, Joann Cline Reksten '50 asked Alumni Association writer Betsy Holmquist (and survey volunteer) if she'd like to see a photo of the UM campus in 1918 that her father had sent. Betsy said of course and she has shared it with us.

The photo that appears on the opposite page was printed on a postcard sent by John Cline '24 to his family in Polson. The image shows the tents that were the homes of soldiers during the First World War. John Cline wrote on the back of the postcard: *I am sending a picture of our camp. Behind the grandstand is gym. We have mess there now. Clock to left is Science Bldg. Beyond Main Hall is library. Right behind tents is the new barracks. Our tent is marked x. The long street is Pershing St. Other is Liberty. Back of buildings is campus. Each platoon is going to have a football team. If you find any heavy underwear (sp) you might send it down for we probably won't have suits for some time.* John

## MORE ON EMMA

While reading the last *Montanan* magazine, I saw the picture of Mrs. Emma Lommasson. It reminded me of a time back in Great Falls around 1943. I am one of the Fort Missoula internees, not a prisoner. I came out from the Fort and went to work at the Columbus Hospital in Great Falls.

The first time I met this beautiful lady was

# Letters



The UM campus in 1918, with tents for housing soldiers. On the right we see the campus from a similar vantage point in the summer of 2005.

at a friendly house; after seeing her I lost my speech. While living in Great Falls, I was acquainted with her mother. While telling many stories of the old country, she used to fry eggs that I enjoyed very much.

Around 1951, I moved to Missoula and attended one quarter at the University. Mrs. Lommasson helped me a lot. If I would have listened to her, my scholastic situation would have been much different. But dreams fly like bees and I soon moved to the Seattle University. Emma continued to help me, even when I was at the University of California.

By the way, I was born November 22, 1911. This is an exception to the rule because I never tell my age. I have been around the University since 1941. I could tell you many stories, but I talk very little. I have, however, published eight books that can be found at the Mansfield Library.

**Umberto Benedetti**  
Missoula

#### VOLUNTARY GRACE

Dear *Montanan* Editor:

Because of feeling guilty for the freeloading of the *Montanan* for quite a few years, I now am enclosing a check for \$40 to pay for my subscription.

Of course, I have another reason for being so generous—that “*Montanan*, Wherever I Am” cap that you are offering as a gift (bribe). I will make good use of the cap since I am a snow-bird, heading to points south every winter.

I closed a small retail business in San Diego in 2000 and retired back to Montana. Thanks for the *Montanan*. I always read it cover to cover.

**Jim Hutchinson '60**  
Hamilton

Here is my voluntary subscription to the best university magazine out there. Read every page. Keep up the great work.

**Robert W. Squires '56**  
San Antonio, Texas

This Spring 2005 issue of the *Montanan* is the most interesting issue I've ever received. Thank you!

**Willa Hall '53**  
Sequim, Washington

#### SEND US YOUR MAIL

The *Montanan* welcomes letters to the editor. We ask that letters be signed and include the writer's graduating year or years when appropriate, home address, and phone number or e-mail address. Send them to:

*Montanan* Editor  
315 Brantly Hall  
University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812

Unfortunately, because of space limitations we are not able to include all letters sent to us. Letters that appear are often edited for length or clarity.

While universities are places of discussion where people of good will do not always agree, letters deemed potentially libelous or that malign a person or group will not be published. Opinions expressed in the *Montanan* do not necessarily reflect those of The University of Montana.

## EDITOR'S DESK

the library to view the last few years of *Omni's* publication, but found nothing, and other searches for articles on Rorvik and cloning also came up short.

I checked to see if he gets the *Montanan*. Our alumni list has him living in Portland, Oregon; no phone number listed, obviously. That would be too easy. What a strange trip I was on. It was time to quit and get back to the magazine. If you read this, David, phone home and let us know what you're up to.


Another man, an octogenarian, told a caller a little about his life, one clear high point being, “I married this little girl from Dillon.”

One man, who received a master's degree in geology from UM in 1960, talked about his time in Missoula and how the University and town have changed since he was here as a married grad student. The volunteer, used to spending a short time with each caller, found herself sitting back in her chair and listening to the man's story. He said he never once went to the movies because he was so poor and he worked all the time; his social life consisted of having a beer occasionally with neighbors. (Some students might argue it's not a whole lot different today.) He told stories about living in a Forest Service cabin in the Whitefish region in 1959. He said he was the geologist who eventually mapped that entire region.

If the participants stayed with us through the survey, they were eligible to win a \$100 gift certificate from UM's Bookstore. When one woman heard that, she said, “Oh, boy, more sweatshirts!”

We had the predictable hang-ups and “can you call another time; we're about to eat dinner” replies, but more people than not were willing to talk with our volunteers. One participant offered that he also received Notre Dame's magazine and he liked the *Montanan* better. Ah ..... I'll take it, even if it is a little over the top.

We will use the results of the survey in charting our course over the next few years. We've learned a lot. And, as usual, some of the more poignant things we learned were things we never asked about. Kudos to volunteers and participants alike.

**Joan Melcher**  
Editor, *Montanan* 

# The Oval

.....gallery.....



This painting, *Composition II* (1943), by Arshile Gorky, is gracing the entryway to the President's Office in UM's Main Hall. It is on loan, along with another painting from the Abstract Expressionist period—*Crow Dancer* (1958) by Franz Kline. The paintings have been loaned by an anonymous donor who wishes to share pieces of his art collection with the public. They will hang in the entryway until October 7. President Dennison encourages all who would like to view the paintings to stop by his office in Main Hall.

.....upclose.....

## WINNER FROM WILSALL

The *Montanan* staff, with the help of many volunteers, conducted a telephone readership survey in May and learned all kinds of things (see Editor's Desk on page 2).

We learned that *Montanan* readers are drawn to historical stories and also want to read more regional features and essays. Of our regular departments, participants reported reading About Alumni and Artifacts the most. Participants liked many of the story ideas we floated by them, particularly a story of the most notable alumni and faculty at UM, a story on UM's College of Technology and its work with alternative energy, and a research story on the

.....discovery.....

## NEW ROOM FOR RESEARCH

With the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences growing by leaps and bounds, it is fortuitous a wealthy donor continues to support its work. L.S. "Sam" Skaggs was the chief benefactor of the college's new building, completed in 1999 and named in his honor. This year he stepped forward one more time to contribute \$3.5 million to a \$14 million project that will add a wing to the building.

And so a ceremony was held in May to dedicate the Skaggs Pharmacy Building and to toast the college for its growing success in biomedical research. The nearly 60,000-square-foot addition will provide the college with space for its burgeoning research programs (see story on page 16.) It will house interdisciplinary labs, conference rooms, an electronic classroom, a kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade learning center, a tiered classroom, and student support areas. Other funding for the new addition comes from campus-based revenue bonds, the National Institutes of Health, and the Poe Family Trust.

Sam Skaggs' ALSAM Foundation and Albertson's have contributed a total of \$11.7 million to both projects. Earlier in the year the college's pharmacy school was renamed the Skaggs School of Pharmacy in his honor.

groundbreaking work of a UM geologist.

We learned that only a small percentage of you are accessing the *Montanan* on-line and that more than 41 percent of you get 75 percent or more of your information about UM from the magazine.

Another thing we learned was that Joan Knodel of Wilsall is a very lucky woman. Of several hundred readers contacted, she was the one to win the \$100 gift certificate to the UM Bookstore. We promised a chance at that prize for all those who agreed to answer our questions.

Congratulations, Joan. And go ahead and spend it all in one place.

.....extracredit.....

## UM NO. 1 IN UDALLS

Jeffrey Ross focused his application for a Udall scholarship on two causes Morris K. Udall worked for throughout his lifetime—the environment and American Indians. Most students who apply for the awards focus on one or the other, but Ross had a different vision.

"It is my goal to integrate the two by increasing the Native American presence in the conservation and preservation movement," Ross says. He is one of four UM students to receive Udall scholarships in 2005 and part of a record-breaking precedent. In 2005 UM passed Cornell University to become the nation's pre-eminent institution in producing Udall scholars. A total of twenty-two UM scholars have been named since the scholarships were first awarded in 1996.

The Udall scholarship program was established by Congress in 1992 to honor Udall's service in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each year the \$5,000 scholarship awards are given to eighty college sophomores and juniors across the country who have shown dedication and extraordinary potential in pursuing environmental research and to American Indian and Alaskan Native college students who have shown exceptional potential and commitment in tribal public policy or health care careers.

In addition to Ross, other UM students who will receive scholarships for the 2005-06 school year are Zach Benson, Marcia St. Goddard, and John Powell.

Ross, a member of the Ojibwa tribe from Rivers, Manitoba, drew from his experience in working on land management policy, specifically on Native tribal lands, to win the scholarship. A Blackfeet Indian, St. Goddard of Browning was chosen for her involvement in reservation health care. Benson, a Colstrip native (featured on page 10), drew from his work in environmental water remediation science to earn his scholarship. Powell, of Muncie, Indiana, received his Udall for population genetic research he conducts on westslope cutthroat trout. He studies fish from rivers and lakes across western Montana in the conservation genetics lab at UM. — *Brianne Burrows*



As I walked across campus one morning this week, I encountered a local artist and University alumnus who told me that he came to campus often to enjoy the spectacular beauty and collect his thoughts. Those of us who came here as students or as faculty and staff members recognize instantly the feeling invoked by my artist friend. But the whole amounts to more than the sum of the parts. As I think about my own experiences, as a student and later as an administrator with some responsibility for sustaining the ambience, it becomes clear to me that the place and the people together create the irresistible allure and attractiveness. More than that, the place inspires people—whether students, staff, or faculty—to wonderful achievements, as attested in every issue of the *Montanan*, including this one.

As you enjoy this issue with its feature articles focusing on a few of our outstanding people, try to imagine them in another context. It simply does not work for me. The people and the place together create a sense of excellence, pride, and inherent beauty that characterizes The University of Montana.

I want also to take this occasion to congratulate the editor and staff of the *Montanan* for an award-winning year. As a recent readership survey clearly reveals, the readers agree with the judges of a national competition. [The *Montanan* was named Most Improved Magazine in 2005 by the Association of Educational Publishers.] In a sense, we loyal subscribers have a journal that matches the institution in which we take such pride.

With every passing year, I become increasingly convinced that we can and will maintain a University of the twenty-first century, offering an education second to none, because of the contributions of the outstanding students, staff, and faculty, and the assistance of our many friends and loyal alumni.

George M. Dennison '62, M.A. '63  
President and professor of history

.....upclose.....

## NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR THE GRIZ

Jim O'Day was named UM's athletic director in June. The former director of development for UM's Intercollegiate Athletics, O'Day was chosen from a field of sixty applicants after an extensive search. He replaces Don Read, who led the athletic department during the past year.

"We have many challenges ahead, with many peaks and valleys, but together we can climb those mountains," O'Day said. "Together we can make Grizzly athletics one step better than it is today."

Other finalists for the job were: Calli Sanders, senior associate athletic director at Iowa State; Tom Sadler, senior associate athletic director at the University of Hawaii; Mike Marlow, associate athletic director at the University of Oregon; and Tom Collins, senior associate athletic director at Arizona State University.

UM President George Dennison made the

final decision after reviewing recommendations from the search committee. "I talked to a lot of people on and off campus," he said, "and Jim O'Day is what the institution and department needs at this time."

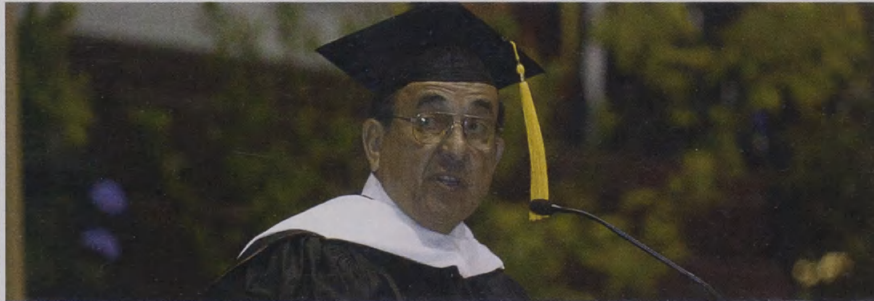
For the last five years O'Day has been director of development for UM Intercollegiate Athletics, and he was assistant director of the Grizzly Athletic Association for two years before that. He received his undergraduate journalism degree from UM, where he was sports editor of the *Montana Kaimin*.

A native of Cut Bank, O'Day was owner and publisher of *The Western Breeze* newspaper in Cut Bank before coming to UM.



.....alumniachiever.....

**HONORARY DOCTORATE**



Joe McDonald

A national leader in American Indian education, Joe McDonald received UM's highest recognition—an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters—during the University's Commencement ceremonies last May.

McDonald also was the commencement speaker for the 2005 graduation ceremonies.

Founder and current president of Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, McDonald has a long history in Indian education, which has included teaching elementary and high school students, teaching and coaching at Northern Montana College, and establishing extension centers for Kalispell's Flathead Valley Community College, which grew into Salish Kootenai College, and for Blackfeet Community College.

"Joe McDonald, more than any other person, embodies American Indian education," says UM President George Dennison. "He provided the leadership that resulted in the designation of the tribal colleges as land grant

.....alumniachievers.....

**ATTORNEY, WRITER, AND BUSINESSWOMAN HONORED**

The UM Alumni Association recently announced it will honor three distinguished alumni for 2005—Bruce D. Crippen, James Grady, and Deborah Doyle McWhinney—at Homecoming, October 1.

A Billings attorney, Bruce Crippen, is the only senator from Yellowstone County to be named president of the Montana State Senate and serve as minority whip, minority leader, and president pro-tempore. He received his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1956 and a juris doctorate in 1959. Crippen is an emeritus member of the UM Foundation Board of Trustees. In 1995 he received the Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award at Charter Day. Crippen developed Rimrock Mall in Billings. He has served as chair of the Public Service Board of Billings, on the board of directors of the Billings Yellowstone Art Center and the YMCA, as president of Yellowstone County United Way, and as adviser of Eagle Mount. He and his wife, Mary, have four children.

A staff aide for the 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention, James Grady '72 launched his writing career at the age of

twenty-four with his novel *Six Days of the Condor*—later made into the movie *Three Days of the Condor*. Jim served as an aide to Montana Senator Lee Metcalf and then worked for four years for the nationally syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. He has published thirteen novels and many short stories. Grady's writing is well known in Europe, where he has received French and Italian literary awards. His film and television credits include cable feature movie scripts, episodes for a dramatic series, original screenplays, and consulting for CBS Movie of the Week. This Shelby native and graduate of UM's journalism school lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his wife, Bonnie. They have two children.

Deborah McWhinney currently lives in Tiburon, California, where she is president of Schwab Institutional at Charles Schwab

& Company Inc. She is executive adviser to the Hitachi HDS and Hitachi Limited board and executive team and is on the board of directors of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. A Missoula native, McWhinney is past president of UM's Foundation Board of Directors and an emeritus member of UM's Business Advisory Council and the UMAA Board of Trustees. She was listed as one of the 100 Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business by the *San Francisco Business Times* in April 2005. McWhinney graduated in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in communications. She is the mother of two daughters.



Bruce Crippen



James Grady



Deborah Doyle McWhinney



## candidcampus



With this photo, we begin a regular Oval section. Knowing our readers can't get enough of campus views and inspired by our President's letter describing the lure of UM's campus, we decided to run a photo each issue that features UM and/or its people. We are looking for recently-taken photos that are either striking visually or tell a story of some sort. They should not be posed in any way. This photo, taken by UM student April Blankenship, actually was a shot of the reflection of Main Hall and crows in a pool of water. If you turn the photo 180 degrees you'll see the original view.

colleges and has participated in every endeavor to assure their increasing effectiveness."

McDonald serves as president of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, which helps maintain standards of quality in Indian education and supports the development of tribal colleges, as well as legislation and policymaking to support Indian higher education. He also serves on the boards of the American Council on Education and the American Indian College Fund. He now holds four degrees from UM.



Drummers perform to honor Joe McDonald at UM's 2005 Commencement ceremony.

## grizgreats

### TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER

Grizzlies have been prowling Missoula streets for some time now. But soon they'll be gathered together and auctioned off to the highest bidder. It's all part of the Montana Grizzly Scholarship Association's fundraiser, the Grizzly Prowl.

It began last year when thirty-five artists throughout the state were chosen to make art of life-size fiberglass grizzly molds, a take-off on the "Cows on Parade" concept that originated in Chicago in 1999. The artists used the forms as a canvas to depict western scenes, and various themes, venues, and activities. There's a golfing bear, a cyborg-like bear, a bear that displays the University campus a century ago, a bear that embodies a Grizzly football team, a

bear with salmon swimming through its bloodstream, and a bear that boasts elements of a Charlie Russell painting, to describe a few.

The bears have been on display at a variety of public venues in Missoula and Hamilton for several months.

The auction, which will include a dinner and dance, will be held September 16 at the University Center. Those attending will not be the only ones able to bid on the bears. C.J. Merrill, the project's

coordinator, reports that people across the country can view all of the bears on the Internet at <http://www.grizzlyprowl.com> and contact the GSA office at (406) 243-6487 if they are interested in bidding on a

bear. Merrill reports the association has a list of locations that are willing to display a bear as public art if the owner would prefer to leave the bear in a public place or doesn't have room to display the work.



**UM J-SCHOOL HONORED WITH 'POOR PEOPLE'S PULITZER'**

UM journalists found themselves in good company in May when they received the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Among those they rubbed elbows with were Bob Woodward, Ethel Kennedy, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Art Buchwald, and Harry Belafonte.

Journalism professors Carol Van Valkenburg and Teresa Tamura were on hand to receive the award, along with seven of the fourteen students in UM's 2004 Native News Honors Project. The group won for reporting in *Sovereignty*, a thirty-six page, in-depth look into the struggle of tribal communities in Montana to regain control over the welfare and future of their people.

"This is a wonderful tribute to the excellent work produced by our students,"

VanValkenburg says. "It is also significant because it honors those many, many people on Montana's reservations who for years have opened up their lives and their homes to our students so that their stories could be told."

The RFK Journalism Awards were founded in 1968 by a group of journalists who covered Senator Kennedy's presidential campaign. The award cites outstanding reporting on the poor and disadvantaged and is called the "poor people's Pulitzer."

UM students contributing to the project were Jessica Wambach, Adam Weinacker, Alisha Wyman, Fred Miller, Natalie Storey, Sadie Craig, Joe Friedrichs, Meghan Brown, Adam Bystrom, Mike Cohea, Lisa Hornstein, Chandler Melton, Noelle Teixeira, and Heather Telesca.

The following is an excerpt from a story written about the experience by one of the recipients, Joe Friedrichs, now a reporter for the *Curry Coastal Pilot* in Brookings, Oregon. The story originally appeared on the journalism school's Web site; it also ran in the *Pilot*.

*When we arrived at GWU, I entered the room with equal parts of pride and fear. Top-notch journalists were mingling everywhere. The five of us stood against the wall of the winner's room like potential convicts in a police line-up. I finally mustered the nerve to mingle and start a conversation.*

*I ended up talking with fellow RFK award winner Mark Fiore. His editorial cartoons won this year, and the conversation was easy and smooth.*



*All eyes were on Ethel Kennedy when she walked in. She was beautiful—elegant and graceful. After a few moments, we walked over and had our picture taken with her. I gave her a hug. She smelled like heaven. Everything was suddenly happening before our eyes. ...*

*Our award was the second to be announced, and (we) glided to the stage. There, Ethel Kennedy shook our hands and gave us a ten-pound bust of Robert Kennedy. The few moments between hearing our names called, the loud applause and walking to and from the stage are a bit of a haze.*

*All of the other awards were handed out, including the 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award to Arthur Schlesinger Jr. The famed U.S. historian and author is in the twilight of his career. His frame is worn by the years. His voice is soft and choppy. But his mind is sharp. ...*

*Bob Woodward, of the famed Watergate investigative pieces, stood near the door for a while, watching the past and present of the journalism community. When he shot a glance in my direction, I realized he was watching the future. ...*

*We took the bust of Robert Kennedy and headed back in the direction of the Marriott. I stopped three beautiful women in the street and explained to them who I was and why I was holding this bust of Kennedy. One of them touched my arm. I continued my strut. Later, Miller, Cohea and I enjoyed the nightlife in Georgetown—until 4 a.m.*

*Our phone rang just a few hours later. It was Van Valkenburg. "This is your fairy godmother," she*

**Winners of the 2004 RFK Award with Ethel Kennedy and Van Valkenburg: (from left) Friedrichs, Storey, Wambach, Van Valkenburg, Teixeira, Kennedy, Telesca, Miller, and Cohea.**



*bolled into the phone. "Get out of bed, we're going to the Post."*

*The three of us rolled out of bed and tried to pack our bags. Basically, we stuffed everything into them with no order whatsoever. My bag ended up looking like a deformed egg.*

*Nancy Szokan, 2004 Pollner Professor at UM and Post editor, had arranged to meet us for lunch and give us a tour of the paper. ... It made me realize how quickly the wheels are turning. One weekend I graduated from college. The next, I was sitting in the Washington Post having lunch with some of its editors and reporters. What a wonderful world.*

*During the meal, Szokan pointed out a man sitting at the table next to us. It was former Post Editor Ben Bradlee. ... After lunch Szokan let us sit in on the budget meeting of the Post editorial staff. This is where they decide what goes on the next day's paper, especially the front page. There we sat, four fresh UM grads and one professor, watching the staff of one of the most powerful newspapers in the world conduct its business. The meeting was quick and efficient.*

*It made me hungry for the big time. It made me hungry to start my career.*

.....discovery.....

## CHICK-A-DEE-DEE-DEE

The headline for this story is actually quite alarming—at least to a chick-a-dee. UM researchers have discovered a previously unknown level of sophistication in the calls of the birds. Basically, the more dangerous a predator is to a chickadee, the more “dee” sounds the birds tack onto the end of their trademark “chick-a-dee” call.

This discovery by Erick Greene, a UM professor of biological sciences, and his former graduate student Chris Templeton was notable enough to be featured in a recent issue of *Science*. The story has since made the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and other news outlets worldwide.

Greene is a behavioral ecologist and acting associate dean of the Division of Biological Sciences. Templeton is now a doctoral student at the University of Washington. The two found that common chickadees have a complex system of alarm calls that convey information about the

size and danger of potential predators and tell the birds what sort of defense to mount in response.

Greene and Templeton conducted their experiments in aviary pens at UM's research Field Station at Fort Missoula. To capture flocks of black-capped chickadees they showed thirteen types of flying predators—everything from hawks and falcons to five-inch-tall pygmy owls. They also exposed the chickadees to cats and ferrets, as well as harmless bobwhites.

Research showed that a massive great horned owl only elicited two “dee” syllables at the end of a call because the quick chickadees can easily outmaneuver it. But the sight of a lightning-quick pygmy owl sent the chickadees into a frenzy—eliciting four “dees” at the end of their calls.

Contrary to what people might believe, Greene says, the chickadees were far less concerned by the bigger hunters. But a smaller raptor with a short turning radius drove them nuts, as well as a ferret or cat.



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# Zach Benson '06

Zach grew up in Colstrip and received a scholarship to the Montana Science Institute at Canyon Ferry while in high school. He is shown at a site in Rimini, a small historic town near Helena, where he monitored mine effluent for metal contaminants as part of his MSI study. Last spring he won a prestigious Udall scholarship as well as the Richard Field Physical Chemistry Award at UM.

What person changed your life? Dr. Graeme Baker—a mentor, chemist, but most of all an adopted grandfather. He taught me the wonder of chemistry and showed me how much fun life is from start to finish. (Baker, chemistry professor emeritus from Florida State University, was Zach's professor at the Montana Science Institute.)

When you were ten, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to write novels. Now I'm writing research papers.

What's the best advice you ever got? The best advice I ever received (and paid attention to) was from Dr. Graeme Baker: Make haste slowly.

What is your greatest hidden talent? People are always surprised at my musical side. I've performed as a pianist and tenor for many years.

What book would you take into your 'next life'? Shel Silverstein's *Where the Sidewalk Ends*.

What's your favorite bumpersticker? Be careful of stupid people in large numbers.

What was the best class you ever hated? Physical chemistry—8 a.m. all year, hard as a rock, best class ever.

What surprised you most when you came to UM? How easily I just fell into place.

If you could light anything on fire right now, what would it be? My car. It's slowly falling to pieces.

What is your favorite guilty pleasure? Watching over-the-top comedies in the middle of the day with a huge bowl of vanilla ice cream with homemade hot fudge sauce.



# NANCY AND HER WILD

## Alumnae Profile



The first piece of the *Felis Forever* series, for which Nancy was awarded Best of Show at Quilt National 2003, a biennial, international juried exhibition of innovative quilts.



BY MEGAN McNAMER

One day in the summer of 2000 Nancy Erickson was working in her Pattee Canyon studio making small drawings of cougars. It was a season that felt epic in its conflux of drought, heat, and fire. Erickson herself was feeling ill from the effects of treatment for thyroid cancer. She looked up from the cougar she was drawing and out at the surrounding woodlands. There was a real cougar, looking at her. They held each other's gaze.

Walter Benjamin wrote that to perceive the aura of a phenomenon is to invest it with the capacity to look at us in turn. Erickson's *Felis Forever* series is especially "auratic." It is a collection of big free-form fabric cats incorporating paint, oil sticks, and charcoal with machine stitching and appliqué. The cats are poised and regal, as cats will be. These cougars have been transformed into art, though, and they look like they know it. Somehow, they appear to be active agents in the process. Their bodies are imprinted all over with bits and pieces of other animals—horses, gazelle-like creatures, a tiny rhino. The cats wear their altered beauty like jackets or robes, ceremonial and purposeful. They are conscious of an audience.

# KINGDOM

Of the *Felis Forever* series, Erickson writes: *In the mid-1990s I worked on quilted pieces that showed bears in caverns or in rooms formerly occupied by humans and covered with cave drawings of early animals. The bears wander through these environments, teaching their cubs about history. In this new series ... the ancient history is imprinted on the cougars; the cougars are freed of caves and rooms, and they move freely on the wall.*

The mutual regard between Erickson's big cats and their contemplators keeps these images loose and moving, their meaning unfixed. Are the marks on these bodies accidents of history or collected messages? Are they scars, brands, or adornments? Some of the images hint at the human world. Yellow highway lines mark a haunch, red dots cluster on a brow like a rash or newsprint.

Some of the cats have mismatched eyes: one iris is crimson, the other cobalt blue, both set in a golden glow. The effect is not skewed so much as kaleidoscopic. Fear flickers with resignation, suffering with comfort, anger with benevolence. It is as if one eye has seen something we have not yet seen. The other eye gazes at us—we, who are still mostly in the dark—with something like compassion.

Artists are like these cats. They see with two kinds of eyes.

Nancy Erickson's artist statements invoke the words that Chief Seattle reportedly spoke in 1854: "What good is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected."

Erickson's vision is apocalyptic, but also peaceful; catastrophic, yet redemptive; both angry and playful. In one piece, bears embrace; in the next their necks stretch up toward missiles flying overhead. These wild animals are juxtaposed with chairs and electrical sockets.

Her art is not neatly categorized. Although she grew up on a ranch outside of Livingston and studied zoology as an undergraduate, she is not showing us in her art what animals look like. ("I'm a [Charlie] Russell reject," she laughs, referring to an unsuccessful submission to the Russell Museum's annual art auction in Great Falls.) Neither is she educating us, necessarily, about the specifics of animal lives. Instead, each of her works brings forth a being "such as never was before and will never come to be again" (Heidegger: *The*



Pounce, 2001



Hall of Memory #10: Guard Bear, 1998

*Origin of the Work of Art*). A quietude hovers over all this. Her artistic impulse, she says, is "to dispel the sadness."

When Erickson obtained her M.F.A. in painting from UM in 1969 she went right from studying art to making it and she hasn't let up since. She has shown her work in some 500 exhibitions from 1965 to the present, all over the world, and it is included in a number of permanent collections, including the Seattle Art Museum, the American Craft Museum in New York, the Holter Museum in Helena, the Missoula Art Museum, and UM's Montana Museum of Art and Culture. The sheer effort—both emotional and physical—that must go into such prolific production is daunting.

"She is a major figure in the world of art quilts, and yet she is also deeply committed to the local community. We are lucky to have her here," says renowned ceramicist Beth Lo, a UM art professor and fellow member of the Pattee Creek Ladies Salon. The group of women artists meets bi-weekly at Erickson's studio. "I've been a member of the Salon for probably fifteen years, and it is a wonderful group to be involved with," Lo says. "We draw, celebrate the female figure, and talk! We talk about art, women's issues, local and global politics, health, families, our worries and our personal victories, our favorite movies, books, and food. Nancy's personality sets the tone. She has the ability to connect with many people, remembering what each and every one is up to, and she keeps contact with little notes and gifts."

Erickson "got to art" only after earning a bachelor's degree in zoology and an M.S. in foods and nutrition from the University of Iowa. By that time she was in her thirties and Erickson says, "I was hungry for it. A visitor to her house will notice that she has painted her refrigerator a cobalt blue, the same color as her arctic skies and cougar eyes—a state-





Another Door Opens, 1995



Bear Series #125: Where's the Ice? 2002

ment of ... what? The delight of the unexpected? Art out-of-bounds? The domesticity of the wild?

In fact, her daughter had painted the kitchen cabinets with a forest scene, so she decided the refrigerator needed painting, too. It features a tree rendered in phosphorescent paint so that it glows in the dark. The same blue swirls through a large, abstract painting in the living room. The eye latches onto an ordinary goose-necked lamp down in the corner of the canvas, a lamp you might buy at Target.

Erickson is seventy this year and appears as fit as a lean teenager. She jogs two and a half miles a day and works out for thirty minutes. She is interested in diet. The safeguarding of her health, perhaps especially after the precarious period five years ago, seems to be part of her work as an artist and her concerns—endangerment, protection, needs, both large and small. One of her bear pieces alludes to a back rub.

Erickson likes aesthetic oddities, and she is an advocate for the circuitous route. She and her husband, Ron Erickson, a former UM chemistry professor and Montana state legislator, have two daughters who found their own right paths in middle age. Of her art, Erickson says she is always seeking to make it new. "I have to re-create myself."

The Toklat wolves in her studio might be up to the same thing. In the summer of 2005, Erickson's studio contains four large drawings of wolves standing like guardians over the tables laden with paint and tools and other shop gear needed for such labor-intensive work. The wolves will join those who already are in her Toklat Wolf Series, large quilted pieces akin to the bears and the cats, made from velvet, satin and cottons, paints, oil sticks, ball point pen, machine stitching, appliqué....

The inspiration for these wolves came from Erickson's reading about the Toklat wolves that were killed after leaving the boundaries of Denali

Park. This series thus far seems a step closer to the human world, for better or worse. The imprintings have become, in part, inscriptions. The letter "K" in the middle of the forehead of "Precious," an already-completed cousin of the paper wolves in the studio, looks distinctly like a brand and not necessarily one borne by an animal. But a closer look reveals that the "K" belongs to the word "Toklat." The broad stripe of white and bits of black around the wolf's eyes begin to look like gang colors. Small scrawls of more words emerge: Toklat, pack, Toklat.... These words look almost like tattoos. Or are they graffiti?

Erickson's creative fixation with animals of the far north began with the bears for which she is perhaps best known. Interestingly, her polar bear imaginings were first sparked from looking at photos in *Life* magazine when she was a child. Erickson's work may be seen as a way of joining the wild with the domestic, making a complicated world more comfortable. But the odd domestic settings, paradoxically, help these bears retain their strangeness.

In many of Erickson's paintings, contemplative nudes share space with animals. They bring to mind the cool twilight novel *Bear* by Marian Engel, about the joining of the spirits and bodies of a bear and a woman. These human forms don't look back at us, or if they do, it is over one shoulder, obliquely. They look sideways off the canvas in a detached way, as if they are daydreaming about the animals next to them, or they curl up in self-protective poses, their backs turned, only faintly aware of destiny and fate, hope, health, and fragility.



Megan McNamer's '76 varied career includes teaching ethnomusicology at UM and writing about Hi-Line basketball for *Sports Illustrated*. She currently is the administrator for the Missoula Writing Collaborative, a writers-in-the-schools program in western Montana.





**BY CHAD DUNDAS** When Professor Rich Bridges came to UM almost twelve years ago, the University's sagging pharmacy school didn't have the equipment needed to outfit his state-of-the-art neuroscience laboratory. It certainly didn't have the money to buy the expensive gadgets Bridges needed to continue his research into the human brain. With just a dozen faculty members and only ninety students, the pharmacy school ranked near the bottom of similar institutions nationwide. Though Bridges himself is reluctant to say the school was struggling, some reports indicate that a few years earlier it was at risk of losing its accreditation.

Lab space was adequate, but funding for equipment was nearly nonexistent. Bridges says he remembers how the new dean, Dave Forbes, and Vernon Grund, pharmacy professor and chair of the then-fledgling Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, had to "piece together a start-up package" for his lab. Luckily, the Division of Biological Sciences was more than willing to help out. And support for Bridges came from several labs in UM's biology and chemistry departments, as well as labs in the pharmacy school.

Grund remembers that biochemistry Professor Walter Hill donated at least one expensive and vital piece of equipment from his own lab to get Bridges up and running. Hill said he would do without until Bridges' lab could buy its own. Bridges says that it was seeing generosity like Hill's—done for the overall good of science on campus—that convinced him that coming to UM would be the right thing to do.

"The number of different groups that chipped in from outside of pharmacy and put equipment into my lab so I could do my experiments, I was blown away by that," Bridges says. "That never would have happened at a medical school, not in a million years."

Bridges now directs UM's Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience. And those lean times are just distant memories for folks involved with the pharmacy program today. The hiring of Bridges in 1993 signaled a bold and innovative new direction for the school. From the time Forbes and Grund took over the administration in the early '90s, they were on a mission to prove that, by focusing on research and recruiting leading scientists like Bridges, UM's pharmacy school could rebound and emerge as a leader in the field. The results have been nothing short of miraculous.

"I think (the previous administration of the pharmacy school) didn't see the importance or the role that research could play," Bridges says, "so it wasn't a priority for the faculty ... it's not surprising that not much grew. I came in after the philosophical decision had been made that research was important and a good thing to do."

In a little more than a decade the school has become UM's top-funded unit and is now ranked fifth in the nation among ninety-two pharmacy schools in total research funding. And that, notes Dean Forbes, is for a school in a state without a medical school—the only one without a medical school in the top twenty institutions receiving the grants.

Pharmacy professors have a wealth of high-profile grants from the National Institutes of Health and account for three of the University's top five grant-earning faculty members—Andrij Holian, Charles Thompson, and Steve Black. The other two in the top five are Lloyd Queen, School of Forestry and Conservation, and Richard van den Pol, Division of Educational Research and Service.

With the burgeoning research, the pharmacy school has already outgrown the Skaggs Building, completed in 1999. A nearly 60,000-square-foot addition to the building is under construction, to go along with the new bioresearch facility, which opened last August at the south end of campus. (See story on page 4.)

"It has far exceeded [in the past ten years] where I thought it would



Bridges at work (above); he is viewing brain cells on the computer screen to his right. The microscope is part of the neuroscience center's imaging facility. The instrumentation allows Bridges to identify specific types of proteins through color coding and determine what cells they are found on. Below he stands above the construction site of the new addition to the Skaggs Building.

**In a little more than a decade the school has become UM's top-funded unit and is now ranked fifth in the nation among ninety-two pharmacy schools in total research funding.**

The fact that a small university like UM has seen so much initial success ... can be attributed to an atmosphere of cooperation that extends through all the sciences on campus, Bridges says.

be in my lifetime," Bridges says of the school's success. "It's just amazing. Very, very exciting. I think it's paved the way for new construction, new educational opportunities for students, new research opportunities for students, new graduate programs—they've all been tied in to the concept of improving research."

Bridges, whose research centers on ways of preventing common killers such as stroke, seizure, Alzheimer's, and Lou Gehrig's disease, has been a stalwart throughout the growth process. He helped build the Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience from scratch, where he and his research team study how the brain uses molecular transporters to regulate the nervous system.

In the past two years, the faculty of the Center for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE), which includes the neuroscience center, has grown from four to nineteen. Recently Bridges received word that an initial \$10 million COBRE grant used to develop the neuroscience center has been renewed at approximately the same amount. The renewal, which is usually more difficult to obtain than the original start-up money, Bridges says, means that UM is on the right track. Still, Bridges says the school can continue to grow and improve.

"Essentially it's bringing about, on this campus, a culture change for people to realize that we can do nationally competitive biomedical research at The University of Montana," Bridges says. "That's still a pretty new concept."

The fact that a small university like UM has seen so much initial success in its fairly new commitment to research can be attributed to an atmosphere of cooperation that extends through all the sciences on campus, Bridges says. The lab team in the neuroscience center often seeks help from workers in other disciplines such as chemistry, biology, and mathematics and even lends a hand when it comes to trying to recruit new faculty into other departments. Bridges says that feeling of community and teamwork is one of the things that sets UM apart from other, larger institutions.

"There were so few scientists here that there was a survivorship mentality," Bridges says. "The centers and the graduate programs have been very good at breaking down the departmental barriers. Students and faculty are brought together based on what they study, not where they get their mail."

Having no medical school at UM is not necessarily a detriment, Bridges says, adding that many faculty members in the basic sciences feel like they have more influence over the direction of the pharmacy program and the research being done on campus than if there was a medical school.

"Quite often faculty who have basic research interests in the medical sciences tend not to play as much of a role in shaping policy at a medical school as those that are running clinical projects," Bridges says. "We've

recruited a number of people from medical schools—large medical schools—who have come here because they see the potential to do something different, to do science the way they would like to do it."

UM scientists work closely with clinicians and St. Patrick Hospital. Bridges' neuroscience center often does research with the hospital's Montana Neuroscience Institute as part of a three-pronged cooperative effort between the University and the hospital that also includes new institutes dedicated to the study of the heart and cancer. Collaborating with the hospital puts UM's focus on what the school terms "translational research," or what Grund calls "bench to bedside" science. Simply put, it means that university scientists work with the hospital to develop research with real clinical applications.

Aside from the hospital, UM also has worked closely with Montana State University to create the new neuroscience program, directed by neuroscientist Diana Lurie. The program enrolled its first students last fall. The two schools, old rivals in other areas, progressed hand-in-hand throughout the five-year planning process to get approval from the state Board of Regents for the new program. Now the universities teach some of the courses together, using high-end video conferencing to link Bozeman and Missoula for certain lectures.

With three Ph.D. programs now available, where ten years ago there were none, a faculty that has tripled in size, and an enrollment that continues to swell, it can be argued that the pharmacy school is now the most dynamic and flourishing school on campus. It is certainly the most lucrative. Even the architects of the new programs admit they're stunned by the school's success.

"If you asked me thirteen years ago I wouldn't have believed it," Grund says. "As a matter of fact, as I visit some of my colleagues around the country, they can't believe it either."

Bridges says he's excited about the future of the program, hoping to get faculty from the physics department on board with research in the neuroscience center soon. He says he sees no reason the school can't continue to thrive, as long as the campus stays open to the spirit of cooperation that's already earned it a reputation as one of the best in the nation.

"We still have a long way to come," Bridges says. "We're still very small and I think it's important for us not to lose sight of the key things that were important to us while building the program and to continue to work using those themes because so far it's worked really, really well."



*Chad Dundas '02 has worked as a reporter for the Associated Press, Missoulian, and the Missoula Independent. He is pursuing an M.F.A. in fiction at UM. His first short stories will be published this fall in literary journals of Purdue University and the University of Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.*

## The Brains Behind the Bucks

### PHARMACY'S RESEARCHERS

BY CHAD DUNDAS

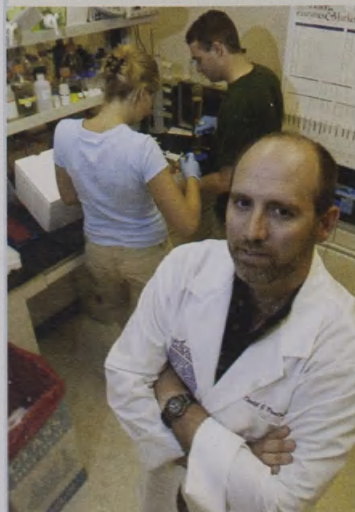
In a little more than ten years, funding for the pharmacy school has gone from \$587,000 to more than \$14 million. Here's a look at some of the dedicated scientists who've built the program into a national gem.

Vernon Grund came to UM thirteen years ago from the University of Cincinnati to serve as the chair of the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Working with Dean Forbes, Grund has been instrumental in hiring the faculty and constructing the facilities that have turned the school around. Grund's own work focuses on cardiovascular disease and diabetes with an emphasis on atherosclerosis.

The pharmacy school boasts three of UM's top five grant recipients from 2004, and Andrij Holian is the University's No. 1 earner at \$5.06 million. Holian, director of the Center for Environmental Health Sciences, works primarily in the study of lung injury and disease. His research focuses on the effects of outside agents like asbestos and smoke on the lungs and also on developing new ways to identify individuals who may be predisposed to developing serious diseases.

One of the University's top researchers will be leaving after fall

Below, Dave Poulsen in his lab with student research assistants; right upper, Mike Kavanaugh; and lower right, Vernon Grund with an architectural rendering of the new Skaggs Building.



Andrij Holian, Steve Black, and Charles Thompson

semester. Steve Black came to UM in 2004 from Northwestern University with five NIH grants worth about \$5 million and picked up a prestigious LaDuke Foundation grant worth about \$6 million in 2005. He studies the inner workings of blood vessels, with the goal of combating health problems such as high blood pressure, atherosclerosis, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, and other blood-system ailments. When we went to press he had decided to pursue his research at the Medical College of Georgia in Atlanta.

Professor Michael Kavanaugh, the associate director of UM's COBRE Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience, came to Montana in January 2003 from the Oregon Health and Science University's prestigious Vollum Institute. A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis with a doctorate in biochemistry from OHSU, Kavanaugh's work at UM focuses, like Rich Bridges', on neurotransmitter transporters. Kavanaugh's lab studies how the transporters regulate function in the central nervous system.

Charles Thompson, professor of medicinal chemistry, was third on the list of UM's top grant earners in 2004 and came to UM from Loyola University in Chicago after studying at Harvard. Thompson brought in \$3.6 million to aid his Thompson Research Group (Web site: <http://www2.umt.edu/medchem/>) in bio-organic, medicinal, and synthetic organic chemistry with an emphasis in neuroscience.

Since joining UM and the Montana Neuroscience Institute as a research assistant in 1997, Professor Dave Poulsen has worked as a translational research scientist at St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center. Poulsen studies gene therapy and how it can be used to treat neurological disorders such as epilepsy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), chronic pain, and spinal cord injury. Poulsen's research also addresses ways of treating hearing loss through the regeneration of tiny hairs inside the inner ear and ways of treating the pain of bone cancer without morphine, using the body's natural opiates.

In just ten years, research funding at UM has increased from \$20 million in 1994 to \$65.7 million in 2004. This year, University President George Dennison has challenged the entire faculty to drive the total to more than \$70 million. The pharmacy school is leading the way.

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# GONE WITH THE ROAD



Confessions of a Montana Traveler



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ILLUSTRATIONS BY LINDY COON

Writer

BY CAROLINE PATTERSON My mother, father, brother and I are on board a Great Northern passenger train, traveling from Missoula to Billings. We are traveling with country women with large purses, freckled children, porters with glistening black skin and strange accents. The railcars have dusty seats with adjustable footrests and backrests; the bathrooms have tiny sinks; and the railcars are permeated by smells of dust and coffee and diesel. The year is 1962. I am six. The steady ricketa-ricketa of the wheels underscores everything like a dream.

We are having dinner when two women come into the dining car, loose-limbed and laughing. They sit down and order drinks. The woman I remember has hair an unnatural color of black and a red slash of lipstick. She carries a guitar. She strikes up a conversation with my father in a brash, mocking voice. My father answers her, his voice measured and amused. My mother, next to me, tenses.

The women talk in a slurring banter, saying whatever comes into their heads, then laugh uproariously. I have never seen adults, much less women, behave like this—and I can't stop staring, even though my mother whispers to me to do just that. I don't understand that these women are drunk and, because I can't explain their behavior, I find their lack of restraint riveting. At any moment, I am sure they will unlock the mysterious world of adults.

Two men in dark blue railroad uniforms join them. One is wearing a conductor's cap. I am mildly shocked that he, a conductor, an official, is with these women. They order drinks, the ring of their voices rising above uncomfortable murmur of the diners and the slicing sounds of plates being stacked.

The woman with the guitar shoves her chair back from the table. She looks out at the roomful of diners, defiant, and hits a chord on the guitar. "I hear ya knockin' but ya can't come in," she sings in a loud, gravelly voice.

Her companions roar.

My father smiles into his napkin.

My mother pales.

I snicker, aware that I shouldn't be

laughing, and that awareness makes me giddy.

The conductor looks at the table, and she looks at him, their glances sidelong and slow. I don't understand the nature of this look. I only know their eyes seem locked in some kind of strange kind of slow-motion game of looking and looking away.

Bang! The woman strikes a chord again, her voice slowing. She sings it again. The laughter grows huskier.

The train slows, the wheels screech against the brakes, the dishes jiggle on the table, and a voice announces a one-hour stop in Butte. Our friends rise. As they walk down the gauntlet of diners trying furiously not to stare, the women hold their heads high; the men are red-faced, their eyes on the floor.

We hear their voices grow fainter as they walk away from the train.

Forks scrape plates in the sudden quiet.

This was one of the first times that traveling in Montana became interesting to me. Instead of being stuck in a hot car with my brother, feeling carsick, and looking out at endless cattle, trees, and sky or hearing boring stories about fur trappers and Lewis and Clark, here was drama. Adults were misbehaving. Other adults were disapproving. And we were seeing something—I could tell from my parents' reactions—we weren't meant to see.

What I had encountered was the surprise of travel. Travel suddenly meant something risky and utterly unpredictable. This was the difference between travel and adventure.

I love to travel in Montana. I love the roads, mountains, rivers, forests, and plains. I love the impending drama of the coyote I saw one early morning, trotting along behind a newborn calf. The flocks of Canada geese feeding in wheat fields. The lone antelope perched on a hillside. I love the surprise of good pie in roadside cafes, the predictably huge steaks and foil-wrapped potatoes at supper clubs, the goofy small-town museums with mannequins in Victorian gowns, a brass Civil War lunch box with a half-eaten biscuit in it, and the skeleton with an arrow through the skull.

In forty-eight years, I have traversed the state by car, train, bicycle, and bus. In 1988, I started working as a travel writer and my beat was Montana's towns, ghost towns, ski areas, lakes, and hot springs. I have covered recreation ranging from skiing to tree-walking. I have eaten in a Chinese restaurant built in a chicken coop and a cafe with refurbished car bodies as booths. I have stayed in chalets, cinderblock motels, \$300-a-night cowboy condos with deck-side Jacuzzis, and at elegant to plain old run-down dude ranches. In bed-and-breakfast inns, I have consumed hundreds of chocolates placed on hundreds of beds banked with hundreds of pillows in rooms decorated with straw hats, kites, kimonos, wind socks, glass dolls, and teddy bears.

What I love about traveling Montana is encountering the surprise of travel again: the fabulous peach cobbler at a dude ranch high in the Rocky Mountain Front, the hot springs secreted away in the Tobacco Root Mountains, the Glasgow museum display of two-headed animals; the river guide on the Missouri with his motorized canoes, hearing aides, and his assistant, Alice, with the screechy laugh.

I love the strangeness and recklessness of these isolated places. The town of Rudyard, with the sign that says *Pop: 286 nice people and one old sorehead!* Or the Drummond sign: *Home of the Bullsippers*. It is not just the goofiness of signs like that that I treasure. It is the fact that the townspeople who erected them couldn't give a damn whether I think the signs are funny or not—they did and that was what mattered.

What I love about traveling Montana is encountering the surprise of travel again ...



Recently I read an essay of A. B. Guthrie's in which he delights in introducing his New York editor to some characters near his Rocky Mountain Front cabin. Guthrie's delight in the contrast between these people made me intensely nostalgic—and I realized that it was because, these days, those contrasts are not as vivid. They are not as vivid because we are not as isolated. No one would dream, for example, of asking an actor, as one local rancher reputedly asked Steve McQueen in the Chico Hot Springs' back bar, "Well, Steve, what's your line of work?" The only place that feels that isolated anymore is eastern Montana, and even in Glasgow you can get espresso.

When my husband, Fred, and I moved back to Montana in 1992, I realized things had changed when I was standing on a hiking trail near Whitefish, reading a sign, wearing sunglasses, when a woman approached me, peering at me in an odd way. I finally realized she was trying to figure out if I was "somebody." I've seen that look again, in the Bitterroot Valley, in Whitefish, in Bozeman—the appraising, head-to-toe, Should-I-know-you? look. It was not a look I grew up with.

This is fall out from our transition to a service economy. We have our eyes out for the people we are serving—the movie stars, the wealthy, and the retirees who have adopted our state as their playground. Were we a more interesting people when we made a living from our own labors?

In 1994 I finally convinced the magazine I worked for to let me cover the Miles City Bucking Horse Rodeo and Sale. The only problem with the assignment was that they approved the story, expenses paid, one week before the sale. Nearly 10,000 people descend on Miles City during Bucking Horse time, and there wasn't a motel room to be found in a sixty-miles radius. Finally, a chamber of commerce person gave me the number of the Red Rock.

A week later, Fred and I drive into Miles City, past KATL radio and Herefords grazing next to K-Mart, and the dusky, historic bars—the Range Rider, the Log Cabin, the Montana Bar—and a sea of people in cowboy hats and boots.

I stop to ask a woman for directions. She runs a hand through her hair and looks the two of us over, head to toe. I become self-conscious about my river sandals. "The Red Rocks," she says. "I just can't think of it." I tell her it's some old motel someone reopened. Her eyes widen and she says, "Ooooh shit."

Down the road, we find the motel, marked with a busted-up neon sign with a pointy sheriff's star and the words Red Rock SUPPER CLUB and POOL. The restaurant is a round building with a sign advertising Hickory Fried Chicken, but the windows are boarded, the sidewalk is cracked, and when I open the door, I see an empty pop machine and tumbleweeds and hear rats scuttling.

We find the owner at a nearby secondhand store, a blue Quonset hut crammed with old beds, lamps, clothes, and ratty-haired dolls. She is in her fifties in a white straw cowboy hat with trebly florescent pink tassels. I'll call her Irene. When I introduce myself, she looks at me and says, "Wait here." Her voice is hushed with panic.

We wander around the store, fingering moth-eaten sweaters and polyester pants, as men start carrying out furniture: a lamp, a bureau, a sofa bed, and a nightstand. "We'll be just a minute!" Irene calls over with a little wave.

Half an hour later, we follow her truck across the broken pavement to a strip of flesh-colored motel rooms. As we stand behind, waiting for her to unlock our room, a man watches us from the doorway of the next room. He has a quart of Old Milwaukee, yardbird tattoos, and four teeth. "Lucky you," he says in a stage whisper. "You're in the room next to mine."

That night, we stay out and drink as long as we can before we return. I pull the mattress off the tiny sofa bed and spread towels on it. I open the windows and try to ignore the musty smell of dust and disinfectant, discarded furniture, and discarded lives. The room to our right is tame: the twang of radios, the low rumble of a party. On the other side, the *Kazam! Pow!* and *Hey Mr. Wizard!* of a cartoon soundtrack plays at top volume all night long.

My husband sleeps with a pistol next to his pillow.

I didn't even know he owned a pistol.

The next morning, as I'm brushing my teeth, I hear my neighbor's loud, gut-churning vomiting from the bathroom next door.

"Was everything all right? Could we get you another mattress? Maybe a king size?" Irene says as I pay her \$60 for the night. It is robbery, I know, but I just want to get out of there. "Look on the bright side," our friend Bryan said later. "At least there was no hurl on the pictures."

When I get home, there's a card from Irene. "May you be blessed," she writes in a loopy, slanting hand. "Thank you so much, for staying with me (so primitive and inadequate). You'll never know how you blessed me! Red Rock Village is an entire story in itself...yet I have a vision for it."

A year later, I got an assignment to visit an executive retreat. Tucked high in the mountains, the place was High Western Chic, with a log lodge bright with strings of lights, small log guest cabins with Jacuzzis, two-person showers, and that ugly, peeled-log furniture that looks like it was built by a three-year-old.

When my husband and I pull up to the office in our beat-up Subaru, the owners are plainly suspicious. Who am I writing for? they ask. What is the name of my editor? The phone number? They call my editor, and when the story checks out, they relax a bit but continue showing me the better publications that had run stories about them.

This is the first time in my travels around the state that being from Montana is not only distasteful; it is an outright mark against me. I'm suspect because I am local. These people feel that they need to protect their property and their guests from us.

Our entire visit is colored by their distrust: the moonlight soak in the Jacuzzi, the horseback ride through the snow, through mountains whose history I knew better than they, our dinner—the veal scalloppini and special vintage red wine—in the dining room decorated with a stone fireplace and elk hides with prominent plaques announcing the animals were shot on Ted Turner's ranch.

While eating dinner, we start talking with the only other couple there. They are from New York—he has something to do with Saint Patrick's Cathedral and she runs mountain inns—and in the course of our conversation, we realize that we have mutual Stanford connections. They buy us a drink. We buy them a drink. She invites us to their inn. We invite them to stop by our house. The proprietors look on, confused.



As we stand behind, waiting for her to unlock our room, a man watches us from the doorway of the next room. He has a quart of Old Milwaukee, yardbird tattoos, and four teeth. "Lucky you," he says in a stage whisper. "You're in the room next to mine."

Emblematic of that visit was the glass cowboy boot. It sat on a table, two feet tall, and held dried flowers. This classic western image cast in glass embodied for me the pretentiousness of places like this, where the West I knew and loved was suddenly a party decoration. I despised the sham, the shameless appropriation of a culture, the shameless trafficking in images—cowboy hats and boots and horses—that were rendered bloodless, sterilized, fragile, safe, and stupid. I despised the fact that this culture was suddenly for sale to the highest bidder.

Why are we exporting experiences like this: experiences that are anxious approximations of the West? Places like this are anxious because they do not offer authenticity. They offer pre-digested experience, a kind of Ensure for the meek. They have interior decorators because they have no character.

What I love in Montana is character that emerges and is shaped by a place. It is character that is shaped in isolation. It is character—like the Red Rock or the grand, strange lobby of East Glacier with its twenty-two Doug fir columns, or the ambling main lodge at Chico—that is genuine. Character, good or bad, rescues us from blandness, mediocrity, and pretense.

While the Jacuzzi and veal scalloppini were nicer than the musty room at the Red Rock, it is, in the end, the Red Rock I tell stories about. Nice, after all, is not memorable.



Former Montanan editor, Caroline Patterson has written travel pieces for *Sunset* magazine since 1988 and is currently an editor for *Farcountry* Press. She has published fiction and nonfiction in journals including *Seventeen*, *Southwest Review*, and *Epoch*. She lives with her husband, Fred, and two children in Missoula.

## BOOKBRIEFS

BY JOYCE BRUSIN

## SEASON OF THE SNAKE

By Claire Davis, '93 M.F.A.

New York: St. Martin's Press, 2005, 276 pp., \$23.95

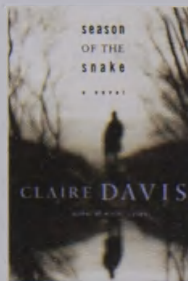
Claire Davis' second novel makes its home in the West, as did her award-winning first work, *Winter Range*. Set in the rugged canyons and sleepy college towns of central Idaho, this suspenseful story focuses not on detectives and crime scenes, but on families and the secrets they sometimes keep. Like the Snake River on whose banks much of it takes place, the novel carves its course gradually, while its unwitting characters discover how little they actually know about the people closest to them.

Nance is a dedicated herpetologist, trained to observe and analyze in detail the behavior of the rattlesnakes in which she specializes. But as the wife of an elementary school principal, she finds herself stymied when her husband, Ned, retreats one summer into silence and unexplained hostility. Nance is familiar with unexpected and tough challenges: as a child in Wisconsin, she lost her mother to illness, and later her young husband to an act of meaningless violence. In the midst of her confusion, her younger sister, Meredith, arrives for an extended visit and begins to challenge Nance's recurring denials about what they are both observing in Ned.

Though Nance has for many years believed her sister to be troubled, she begins to trust Meredith's finely honed instincts and to question the increasingly bizarre behavior of her husband. As the relationship between the sisters prospers, Nance's marriage crumbles.

Throughout her story, Nance remains a curious, observant scientist who loves the intricacies of the snakes she studies. As she swims in a clear river pool, Nance spots a rattlesnake in molt coiled on the rocky shore above her and becomes mesmerized by the blue of its eye. "But somehow, in the wild, it makes all the difference, seeing that eye—that liquid blue—floating, as it appears to, against the grays of rock and dusky sheath. In a matter of days, the scale will soften and clear and shortly thereafter, over another four or five days, the snake will shed its outer sheath intact, revealing the bright new coat of scales.... She can see the small tearing that's begun on the supralabial and infralabial scales...."

First-hand knowledge of the cycles of the natural world help Nance and her sister survive when, by summer's end, the most lethal family secret is revealed.



## HOW TO BE LOST

By Amanda Eyre Ward, '97 M.F.A.

San Francisco: MacAdam/Cage, 2004, 290 pp., \$24

This engaging and intricately plotted novel could just as well have been titled *How To Be Found*. The story of a mother and her three daughters spans more than twenty years and has at its heart the age-old truism that letting go of a lost love can sometimes bring it back to us. The story originates in New York, travels to New Orleans, and ultimately reaches Missoula. Here, the reader is treated to descriptions of familiar downtown landmarks, such as the Wilma apartments, Charlie B's, and the Bon Marché. Other establishments, given fictitious names, are open to speculation.

Local diversions aside, the story begins as a sad one. A five-year-old girl mysteriously disappears on the same afternoon that she and her two sisters were plotting to run away. Little Ellie's disappearance changes everything for her family, who eventually lose one another to guilt and sadness. Even though local authorities believe Ellie has been murdered, her mother and eldest sister, Caroline, refuse to concede her death. Decades later, convinced they have spotted her in a news photo taken in Arlee, Montana, they decide that even such a flimsy piece of evidence must be followed up.

The search for her sister forces the thirty-something Caroline to leave her job as a cocktail waitress in New Orleans, where she trained as a musician. It is a telling omen that when she lands in Missoula, Caroline answers an ad for a pianist to play evenings at a local bar, where the crowd is described as "genial and shabby."

As Caroline searches Missoula for the sister whose loss drove her family apart, she closes the sardonic distance she has carefully maintained with her mother and remaining sister. In a local store she finds T-shirts that read: Montana, the Last Best Place to Hide, but it is in Missoula that Caroline emerges from the shadows of her long vigil for her little sister and begins to claim her rightful place among the living.

Told in straightforward, unadorned prose, the story of Caroline's search gradually uncovers an increasingly convincing chain of evidence. In the end, we are amazed that Ellie's disappearance originated closer to home than anyone had imagined.

## BIG OIL AND THEIR BANKERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF

By Dean Henderson '91

1706 Diane Street, Papillion, NE: Morris Publishing; Dean Henderson, 2005, 451

pp., \$29.90 (includes shipping) The author provides a researched study of what he labels the four horsemen of oil and the eight families of world banking, tying these people to a global economy controlled by oil, guns, and drugs.

## CUT-AWAY PASS

By Kalli Deschamps '69

Missoula: Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., 2004, 167 pp., \$14.95 This novel, set in 1976, tells the story of four-

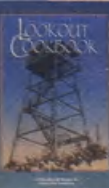
teen strangers who thread their way along a narrow trail on horseback through the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness. Their purpose is to prove that horsemen can tread as lightly on the land as hikers.

## LOOKOUT COOKBOOK

By Libby Langston '99

Coeur D'Alene, ID: Museum of North Idaho, 2005, 141 pp., \$14.95

This collection of recipes and reminiscences of forest-fire lookouts will appeal to anyone who loves to camp or has a fascination for lookout towers. Recipes are simple but varied, and the stories, photos, and illustrations provide a glimpse into the life of a lookout.



## THE RIGHT MADNESS

by James Crumley

Crumley taught creative writing classes at UM.

New York: Viking Penguin, 2005, 289 pp., \$24.95

C.W. Sughrue, a Montana private detective fond of road trips, agreeable women, and an assortment of western watering holes, first came to life in the now-classic Crumley novel, *The Last Good Kiss*. While time may have settled Sughrue a bit, it has not dulled his finely tuned sense of right and wrong and his sometimes troublesome sympathy for the underdog.

As *The Right Madness* opens, Sughrue is married to a lawyer and helping to parent a twelve-year-old boy. When his best friend, psychiatrist Will MacKinderick, talks him into investigating a peculiar burglary of his office, Sughrue is reluctant to take on a case he suspects won't enhance his hard-won peace of mind.

It isn't long before his suspicions are confirmed. With the exception of a pair of affable Persian cats, all who cross his path seem ready to deceive him in their own unique way. When Sughrue's investigation takes him on the road, the larger-than-life characters he encounters range from free-spirited artists and topless dancers to money launderers, bail bondsmen, and somewhat dubious free-range chicken farmers.

Sughrue narrates all his activities in a rhythmic prose unique to him. Of a "lady lawyer from Butte" who comes to his defense, he says, "Usually in that sort of situation, Claudia would arrive on the wings of an ill-tempered harridan, whipping the air with the poisoned tongues of the Medusa. But she worked Johnny Raymond the other way that morning—all sweetness and politeness with legal icing."

When he seeks help from the staff at a Seattle hotel, Sughrue discovers other investigators with an interest in his case. "The FBI agent caught my elbow just as I leaned on the counter and asked for the hotel's manager. He looked about sixteen with his sheared light red curls, pug nose, freckles, and an all-American gap-toothed grin, but his tailored dark-blue suit, white shirt, and rep tie shouted FBI. As did his warm, dry handshake."

Some of these characters, like the ultra-blonde, statuesque Ukrainian-born Larise Grubenko Guilder, wife of a long-sought witness, subject Sughrue to a string of indignities scattered from Montana to Washington, Colorado, and New Mexico. In the end

he throws a few punches of his own and learns far more than he ever wanted to about the small town goings-on of Montana psychiatrists.



## MY FATHER ON A BICYCLE

by Patricia Clark, '80 M.A.

East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2005, 89 pp., \$19.95

Raised in the Pacific Northwest and now poet in residence at Michigan's Grand Valley State University, Patricia Clark observes nature's seemingly random acts of creation and destruction and sees there a mirror for the unpredictability and transience of human life. She received the first book award from Women in Literature Press for her previous collection *North of Wandering*.

### Hiking Near Paradise

*Near Paradise Pass, where the icy solitary stream sent up vapors, I rounded a bend and my heart thumped a beat to find him down, prone in the road, his head pillowed on one arm where he lay smoking. It was the only time I went off alone with him, overnight, the first sighing overhead as we trudged along an old logging road. His eyes opened, when I got close, and he simply said, "Reach into my pocket." I never felt as shy with him as I did then, fumbling at my father's jacket, its lint-lined plaid pocket. A gray-brown whiskered fieldmouse hid there, trembling and squeaking like a bedspring. When I asked he said, "No, you can't bring it home." Two gentle natures, the mouse's and his, bow I still think of them napping heart-to-heart a few minutes there before I came along. I released it away from the stream, the road, far from any dangers I could imagine, near a half-rotted nurse-log carpeted by moss. It disappeared so fast that my hands never seemed to have cupped or held it, never reached into his pocket that long-ago day, the deserted road impossible to find now, overgrown and lost.*

## BOOKBRIEFS

### PRONGHORN: ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

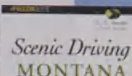
and  
**PRAIRIE GHOST: PRONGHORN AND HUMAN INTERACTION IN EARLY AMERICA**

By Bart W. O'Gara, '68 Ph.D., et. al.  
Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2004, 903 pp., \$85 and 175 pp., \$29.95 respectively

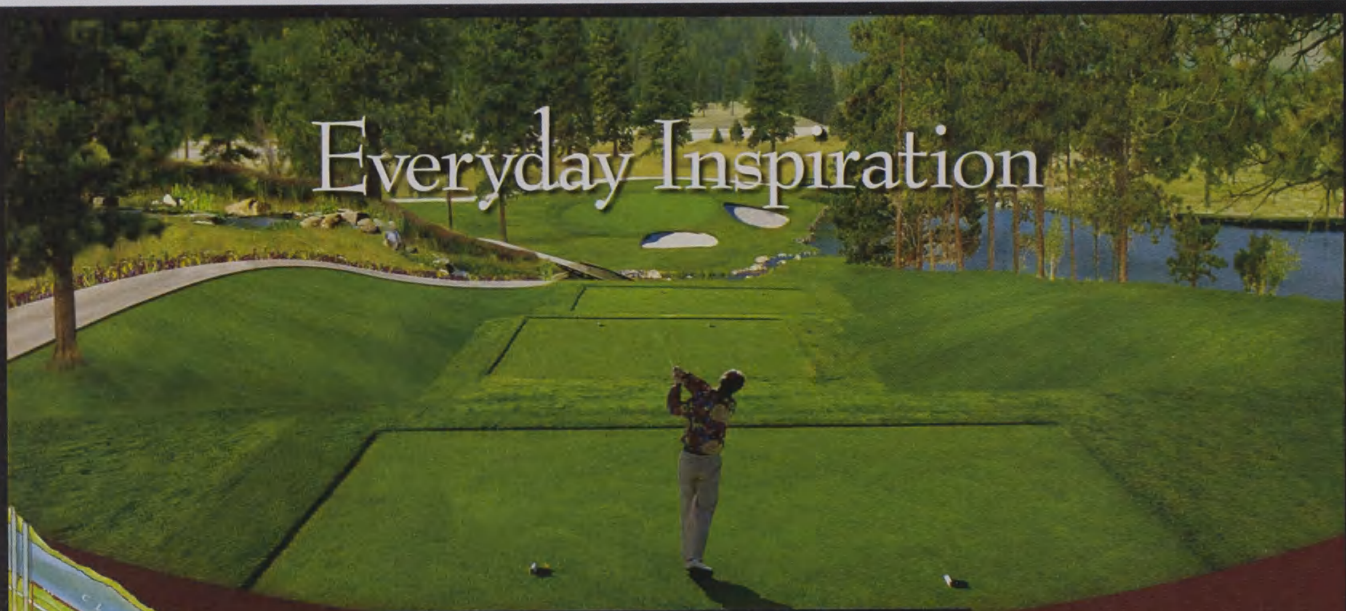
These books, sponsored by the Wildlife Management Institute, constitute the most comprehensive information available of the behavior, physiology, migration, taxonomy, and management of the pronghorn, as well as the role played by the animal in people's lives and cultures over ten millennia. O'Gara, a distinguished alumnus of UM and former leader of the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, died before the books went to press.

### SCENIC DRIVING MONTANA

By S.A. Snyder '88, M.A. '94  
Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, 2005, 180 pp., \$14.95  
Twenty-four of Montana's most memorable drives are featured in this guide, taking the motorist to ghost towns, glaciers, hot springs, and great hiking and wildlife-viewing opportunities. Itineraries are provided for treks from 48 miles to 175 miles in length, with maps outlining each drive and highlighting nearby natural features.



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# About Alumni

Class Notes are compiled by **Betsy Brown Holmquist '67, M.A. '83.** Submit news to the UM Alumni Association, Brantly Hall, Missoula, MT 59812. You may fax your news to (406) 243-4467 or e-mail it to support@UMontanaAlumni.org. Material in this issue reached our office by May 25, 2005. Please contact UMAA with all name and address updates at the above addresses or phone (877) UM-ALUMS.

## '40s

The 60th reunion for the class of 1946 will be held on campus May 11-13, 2006. Contact the alumni office for further details.

**Robert R. Zahn '43** writes from Matsuzaka, Japan, "At eighty-three I'm still healthy enough to handle the work in the parish, help out for Mass in the three Catholic institutions in the parish, and keep the Tokiwa house [a residence for mentally challenged working young men] in Yokkaichi City going after twenty-seven years." Father Zahn has spent his fifty-year missionary career in Japan.

## '50s

The 50th reunion for the class of 1956 will be held on campus May 11-13, 2006. Contact the alumni office for further details.

**Robert F. Kern '52**, Bozeman, grew up in Missoula, a neighbor of Jeannette Rankin. Bob remembers watching the Barnum and Bailey Circus unload at the Milwaukee Railroad siding west of the Van Buren Street Bridge in the mid-'30s. "The handlers had a little trouble convincing the elephants, who were used to walking side by side, to cross the bridge single file," he writes. Bob has re-catalogued, by county, much of the information in *Names on the Face of Montana* by **Roberta Carkeek Cheney '32**. He notes that Montana has lost 1,644 post offices over the years.

**Pat Schammel '54**, **Lee Von Kuster '54, M.Ed. '67, Ed.D. '71**, and **Lynn Hughes Ophus '54, '56** attended



*"If I can see it, I can hit it."* Yogi Berra  
*"Every pitch I threw to him I wanted back."* Dodger pitcher, Don N

**Nobody Don't Like Yogi**, a one-man play about the great Yankee catcher Yogi Berra (center), opened at the Bay Street Theater in Sag Harbor, New York, in 2003. Starring Ben Gazzara (left) and written by UM alum Tom Lysaght, M.F.A. '91 (right), the play soon moved to Manhattan's Lamb's Theater and then launched into a national tour. Lysaght couldn't be happier. "I was a kid from Brooklyn. Mickey Mantle was my hero," Tom says from his home in Los Angeles. Tom found his literary hero, however, in Yogi Berra—"in his great humanity, his unique voice and in his conflicts. Yogi is in that tradition of the holy fool, a Don Quixote," Tom says, a fine subject for a play. (See story on page 35.) Tom credits UM professors Rollie Meinholtz and Bill Kittredge for honing his writing talents.

school together for twelve years in Scobey, graduating from high school in 1950. They then spent four more years together at UM. Pat, a retired senior scientist with Beckman Instruments, lives in Fullerton, California. Lee is on the staff at the University of Texas, Edenberg. Lynn is a retired MSU-Northern faculty member and divides her time between Havre and Yuma, Arizona.



Pat, Lee, and Lynn

**Dexter "Deck" Delaney, J.D. '55**, and his wife, Tink, hosted an April gathering at their Missoula home for the eleven surviving members of the 1955 UM Law School class, which originally numbered twenty-three. In attendance were **Burton O. Bosch, J.D. '55**, and **Myrt Bosch, Havre; Douglas Drysdale, J.D. '55**, and **Martha Story Drysdale '49**, Bozeman; **William E. Hunt, J.D. '55**, and Mary Hunt, Helena; **William R. McNamer, J.D. '55**, Billings; **James N. Purdy, J.D. '55**, Bismarck, North Dakota; **Al Slaight, J.D. '55**, and **Jean Wiprud Slaight '52**, Sequim, Washington; and **Eugene E. Tidball '53, J.D. '55**, Boulder, Colorado. UM Law School Dean Ed Eck also attended, along with widows of former classmates:

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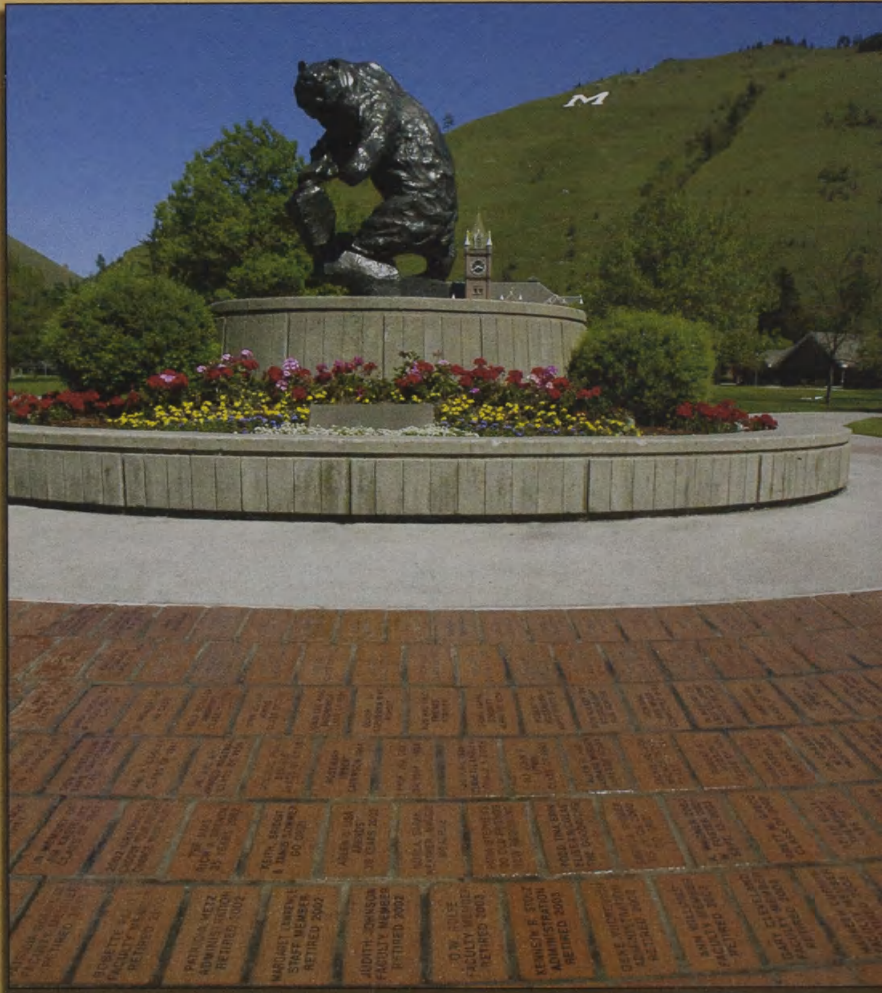
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**Carmen Kreidel Karlberg '46** (Karl), Missoula; **Cathy Skelton (Bob)**, Missoula; and **Jo Mae Drake '68** (Glen), Kalispell. "I am the only one still practicing law," Deck says, "but the others have been very busy in their various retirements. Possibly the most interesting retirement story is that of Al and Jean Slaughter, who decided to sail a boat (with their dog) around the world—and did so."

## '60s

**Thomas Bullock '61** has written *Siwash*, *The Biggest Little Indian Brave*, a children's book about a Sioux Indian boy



who dreams of becoming a brave like his father. While growing up in Great Falls, Thomas held summer jobs that took him to many of the reservations in north central

Montana, where he learned tribal lore and culture. Now retired, he lives in West Covina, California, with his wife, Suzie.

**Raymon R. Bruce '62, M.F.A. '65**, Albuquerque, New Mexico, received a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant for conducting workshops on new comparative economics at the Renmin University of China, Beijing, this past spring. Ray is an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Albuquerque. He was a Fulbright Senior Scholar to Lithuania in 1996 and has worked with University of



Texas partner universities in the Ukraine, Serbia, and Montenegro. His wife, Sharon, and granddaughter, Sarah Kirk, accompanied him to Beijing. While a student at UM, Ray received the Masquer's Best Playwright award in 1962 and 1965.

**Lee R. Mathews '64, M.F.A. '66**, Everett, Washington, is in his



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I feel honored to serve as president of the UMAA Board of Directors. A major goal of the Alumni Association is to serve the present students at UM, its alumni base of more than 70,000 former students, and the many friends of the University. The Alumni Association and its energetic staff continue to expand its programs, such as the Community Lecture Series, student mentoring, and student recruitment. A task force of Greek alumni currently is working to revive the Greek system on campus.

Each of your contributions of time, energy, and interest adds to the University's reputation for excellence. Let's hear from more of you. The UMAA Website is a great way to connect with the association, the University, and each other. Hope to see you at Homecoming September 29 through October 1. Get Connected! Stay Connected!

### Bob Seim

A Missoula native, **Bob Seim '59** is a retired orthopedic surgeon, having practiced in Missoula from 1971 to 2003. He and his wife, **Carol Anthony Seim '60**, have one son, **Brad '91**, and a daughter-in-law, **Kimberly Kindel Seim '91**. Bob has served UM as chair and long-time member of the UM Excellence Fund Steering Committee, as president of GSA, and as a member of the UMAA Board of Directors.

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## ABOUTALUMNI

twelfth season as music director and conductor of the ninety-voice Everett Chorale. Recently retired from teaching in the Snohomish School District, Lee is director of music ministry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Everett. Previously he taught and served as chair of the Fine Arts Department at the College of Great Falls where he founded the Montana Youth Choir. A tenor soloist, Lee has performed with the Seattle Opera and the Sante Fe Opera and managed musical theater programs and community opera productions.

**Frederick W. Gilliard, M.A. '66** and his wife, **Bari Lynn Bertelson Gilliard '64, M.A. '73**, recently settled in

Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. Fred retired as president of the University of Great Falls and has written *Adversity's Sweet Milk*, a novella of stories from his year teaching on the Crow Indian Reservation in Lodge Grass. Followers of Montana Class B basketball will recognize the names of **Don Wetzel '72, M.Ed. '81**, and **Bill De Groot '46** whose Cur Bank Wolves play the Lodge Grass Indians in the 1965 state basketball tournament featured in Fred's story "Crow for Beginners."

**Roberta Hall '66**, Sidney, has taught Spanish for thirty-two years. "I remember thinking I probably wouldn't ever work when I started

college," she writes, "and like many others got married right after graduation." Bobbie has five daughters and four grandsons. Her sister, **Linda Hall Booher '68**, is an elementary school reading specialist and an adjunct instructor for the University of Texas in San Antonio. Linda has four grown children and admits to enjoying the shorts, sandals, and no-need-to-shovel-snow weather that Texas affords. "I still claim the Grizzlies and Montana will always be home," Linda writes. **James M. Schaefer '66**, former UM associate professor of anthropology, is director of Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention at State University of New York in Albany, where he coor-

dinates prevention activities for all sixty-four SUNY campuses. Jim held a similar position at the University of Minnesota from 1978 to 1991. He returned to New York in 1993 and was research professor of anthropology at Union College and head of his own consulting and research business for governmental, corporate, and legal clients. Jim lives in Schenectady with his wife, Kimberly, and children, Michael, eight, and Mikayla, five. Sons Chris, thirty-three, and Jonathan, thirty-one, reside in Duluth, Minnesota, and Seattle.

## GOING STRONG

BY BETSY HOLMQUIST

**S**porting black Velcro tennis shoes, sweats, and a maroon, Grizzly-Mallwalkers shirt, Verla Mae Woodard Wills '35 hardens into the machines at UM's New Directions Wellness Center. A fall and back surgery three years ago caused Verla to lose all feeling in her legs. To regain and maintain her strength she pedals, pulls, and lifts—slowly, but deliberately through an hour-long workout. Her son, Wes, beams at Mom's efforts. Two days earlier he'd taken her to Southgate Mall for her weekly mall walking. On Fridays she attends a rehab session in the Community Medical Center pool. Then Wes and Verla drive back home to Potomac, a route she's traveled much of her life.

Born in 1912 outside Crosby, North Dakota, Verla came to Montana with her family in 1933. Drought had ravaged their family's farm, its dust nearly killing her younger brother. They stopped briefly in Potomac where Verla's aunt was the ranch cook for Roy and Ernest Wills—Verla's future husband. When her family continued on to Washington, Verla stayed at the ranch.

That fall she entered UM, moved into town, and worked for her room and board at the home of Judge Albert Besancon. The following year Verla moved into the Alpha Xi Delta sorority house. "I had no business joining a sorority—I couldn't afford it," Verla says. She cooked for the sorority to help pay her bills.

There was little time for socializing. "Ernest and I dated some but when you're twenty-five miles from town and there are not too many vehicles except an old ranch truck, you don't date very heavily." Verla graduated with a degree in home economics and lifetime teaching certification in English, Latin, and science. "If I had gotten a teaching position, who knows what might have happened," she reflects on her decision to marry Ernest. "It was the Great Depression and few jobs, and I was hungering for a place to call home." On October 1, 1936, Verla and Ernest were married, "after the cattle were all in from the hills. I wore a rust-colored dress I had made myself, a new hat, and new shoes. We left by train for our honeymoon in Spokane—where we made a tour of the Spokane Livestock Auction!"

Verla and Ernest raised four children: Wes, her chief caregiver; Sidney, who runs the ranch; Darleen, who lives in Absarokee, and Jeanette, whose three daughters, Crystal, LeAnn, and Lisa Bush, are all UM grads. In May four generations of the Wills family gathered to help celebrate Verla's 70th class reunion. Her eyes twinkled as grandchildren and great-grandchildren joined in the applause at commencement ceremonies when she was introduced—her strong, muscled arms waving to the new graduates standing below. ▲▲



Verla Mae Woodard Wills '35

## '70s

**John D. Gray '70**, Whitefish, retired as chief of the Big Mountain Ski Patrol in March following thirty-three years patrolling the mountain. John owned the Polebridge Mercantile during the mid-'70s, was a co-owner of Glacier Wilderness Guides, and now builds greenhouses and grows plants and flowers as a full-time hobby and business. Gray's Golf Course, a ski run on the Hellroaring Basin area of Big Mountain, is named in John's honor. **T.J. Gilles '71**, a May graduate of MSU-Billings, translated *Stay Away Joe* into Spanish for his senior project.

**Stephen H. White '71**, Littleton, Colorado, is a consultant for the Center for Performance Assessment. His recent publication, *Show Me the Proof!: Tools and Strategies to Make Data Work for You*, offers analysis tools, data principles, and practical solutions for educators.

**Lyle J. Olsen '72**, Eureka, a former elementary teacher at Fortine and Pablo, has written three books for the young reader: *In Grandma Rita's Garden*, *Put the Picture Down, Henry*, and *Thought Soup*.

**Lorna K. Thackeray '74**, a general assignment reporter at *The Billings Gazette*, was named Journalist of the Year for 2004 by the Suburban



Newspapers of America. A *Gazette* reporter since 1977, Lorna was noted as representing "the epitome of an enterprising community journalist."



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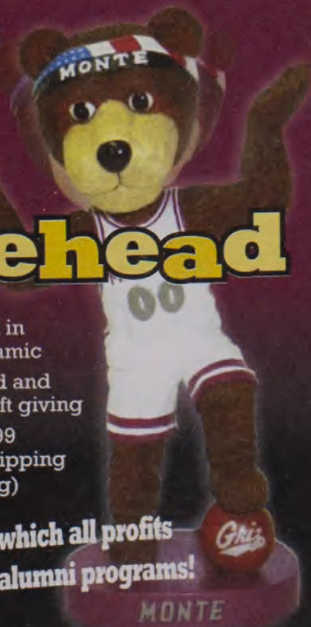


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10/8	Idaho State	1-3 mdt
11/5	Northern Arizona	1-3 mst
11/12	Sacramento State	2-4 pst
11/19	Montana State	10-12 mst

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## ABOUTALUMNI

To sample her award-winning writing, log onto the July 3 and December 27, 2004, "Archives" at [www.billingsgazette.com](http://www.billingsgazette.com).

**Glenn V. Oakley '77**, a landscape and lifestyle photographer based in Boise, Idaho, won two first-place prizes in the 2004 Banff Mountain Photography Competition. His work has been published in *Outside*, *Smithsonian*, and *Sunset* and in national advertising campaigns. Glenn recently collaborated on *Sand Dunes and Sandhill Cranes: Great Sand Dunes and the Wetlands of the San Luis Valley* due out this fall from the University of Arizona Press. While a student at UM, Glenn was a staff photographer for the *Montana Kaimin* and freelanced for *High Country News* and *Mountain Gazette*.

**Thomas J. Seifrid '78**, associate professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, has written *The Word Made Self: Russian Writings on Language, 1860-1930*. The work explores the Russian fascination with the power of the word—as expressed by philosophers,

theologians, and artists—which led to the development of Russian Futurism.

**Bradley P. Grant, J.D. '79**, is the staff judge advocate for Headquarters Third Air Force, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom. Colonel Grant had served as an appellate judge on the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

**Barbara O'Keefe, M.Ed. '79**, a first- and second-grade teacher at Missoula's Lewis and Clark Elementary School, received the 2005 Maryfrances Shreeve Award. The award, which includes a \$2,000 cash prize, honored Barbara for her love of learning and excellence in teaching.

## '80s

**Michael J. McCoy '80** is editor and his wife, **Nancy McCullough-McCoy '80**, is co-producer and marketing/sales



director for *Greater Yellowstone*, a quarterly, regional magazine launched in March by Powder Mountain Press in Driggs, Idaho. The publication focuses on the twenty-five counties in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho that surround Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks—one of the country's fastest-growing areas.

**Charles Czarniecki, M.B.A. '83** retired from the U.S. Air Force following a thirty-year career (fifteen with their space programs). He and his wife, Beth, moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, settled into their new home, and are enjoying skiing and biking. "I am already engaged in volunteer groups," Charles writes, "and sometime this year will start looking for a civilian job in a 'space business' here in Colorado. I selected October 27, 2004, for my retirement ceremony because it was the night of a lunar eclipse. It made the event even more special."

**Lynn Holding '83**, a senior artist faculty member in voice at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, received the fifteenth annual \$2,000

Van Lawrence Fellowship Award from the Voice Foundation in Philadelphia. The award will support Lynn's research into exercise regimes for victims of voice disorders. A performer throughout the United States, Europe, and Iceland, Lynn was a guest soloist with the Missoula Symphony this past February.

**Denise Lee Kelly '87** is executive director of the World Museum of Mining in Butte, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year.

**Barry P. Shingle '87** is fitness director at Rancho La Puerta, a premier spa in Tecate, Mexico, just across the border from San Diego. UM alumnae who've visited the ranch and stayed on to instruct include **Lehni Smith Garza '90**, **Jackie Lynn Kohlbeck '92** and **Sonja A. Tysk, M.S. '98**.

**Kenneth C. Petterson '89**, Kuna, Idaho, pictured here with his son,



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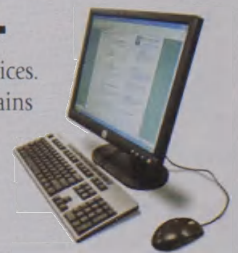


The Dow was trading near 128. Americans' minds were on the Depression, the new Social Security Act and the new Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers movie, *Top Hat*.

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Aiden, rows for UM. His rowing team includes **Michael Boyle '88**, Sherwood, Oregon; **William Keena '72**, New York City; **Scott '71** and **Norma Frank Petterson '61**, Ontario, Oregon; **Sverre Kjetil Rod '83, M.A.** '88, Molde, Norway; **Brian Sibley '96**, Burlington, Washington; and **Bryan Veis '73**, Arlington, Virginia. These eight alumni have rowed more than 3,980,000 meters in the past three years for UM and they're looking for more members for the team. Interested? First, you'll need access to a Concept 2 rowing machine. Then, log onto Concept2.com. "It's a great way to connect with other UM alums interested in a rowing workout and keep UM competitive with university rowing clubs across the world," Ken writes. "Many long distance runners have switched to rowing after years of impact have taken their toll on the knees." Currently UM's rowing team ranks tenth out of 193 university clubs.

**'90s**  
**Dean W. Henderson, M.S. '91**, and his wife, Jill, live in Papillion, Nebraska. Author of *Big Oil and*

## UM PLAYWRIGHT BATS 1,000

BY BETSY HOLMQUIST

**T**om Lysaght's one-man play, *Nobody Don't Like Yogi*, takes place in the empty clubhouse of Shea Stadium. Yogi is awaiting his appearance on the field, to toss out the first pitch on opening day in 1999. He'd been hired and fired by George Steinbrenner and had vowed never to return. But Yogi's back and, among the lockers, bats, and balls, is visited by a lifetime of memories. "The invisible is a major character in the play," Tom explains. And audiences have been thrilled.

Tom began writing *Nobody Don't Like Yogi* in 1993, completing fifteen drafts. There were eight years of marketing before the piece got to actor Ben Gazzara, who plays Yogi. Critics have praised the actor's "inner strength" and "likeable gentleness," qualities revered in the beloved Yogi of "This is like déjà vu all over again" fame.

A Harvard undergrad, Tom teaches playwriting and screenwriting at Brentwood High School. The past three years he's taken his theater skills to Third World countries, creating pieces that reflect the social and spiritual challenges facing local citizens. Last November and again in March he traveled to



Tom on stage after the opening night performance.

India. He founded a theater company in Peru and wrote plays there in Spanish. Four times he's taken theater to South Africa. In between, Tom is finishing up a novel he's been working on for twenty years, a trilogy about a Jewish boy growing up in Persia in the 1840s. "It ain't over 'til it's over"—a fitting Yogism for the playwright himself. ▲▲

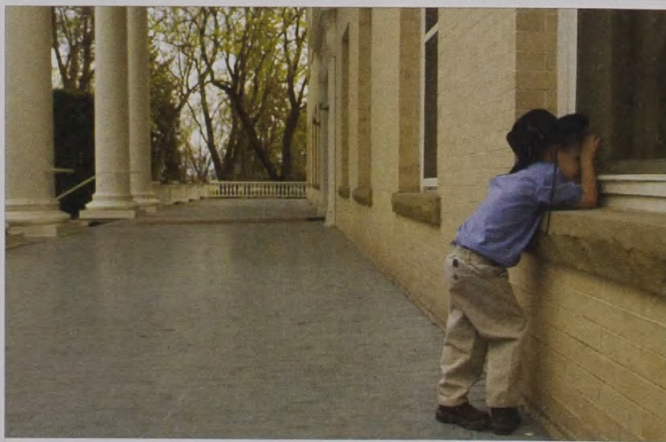
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*Their Bankers in the Persian Gulf: Four Horsemen, Eight Families and their Global Intelligence, Narcotics and Terror Networks*, Dean has stayed politically active, winning the democratic nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives from his former district in Illinois this past fall. You may e-mail him at loccopenos@yahoo.com.

**Vonda Sundt '92** is staff manager, registered associate, at the Missoula office of D.A. Davidson & Company. Vonda oversees the office's support staff and private client group support activities.

**Karen J. Coates '93**, pictured below, is a freelance journalist who writes for a variety of newspapers, magazines, and journals around the world.



Currently based in Thailand, Karen has written *Cambodia Now: Life in the Wake of War*, recently published by McFarland & Company. She e-mailed us in May: "The rainy season has just begun, which means the day heats to an unconscionable level by late afternoon, when thunderstorms brew. Last night, heavy winds knocked down several trees throughout the area. Other than that, the food's great, work is hectic, and life is always interesting. Thailand, however, is much nicer to visit as a tourist than to live in as an expat. I do recommend it for a vacation." Visit [www.redcoates.net](http://www.redcoates.net) to view more of Karen's work and photography by her husband, **Jerry Redfern '01**.

**Veronica L. Vance '93** was accepted into the doctoral program for skeletal anatomy at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She traveled there in June to pursue research in age-related skeletal morphology. Nici

has been a forensic scientist at the Oregon State Police Forensic Laboratory in Portland, Oregon, for ten years and will return to her position as a crime scene analyst after the completion of her degree.

**Sally J. Southwick '93**, assistant director of corporate and foundation relations and coordinator of faculty support at Carleton College in St. Paul, Minnesota, recently published *Building on a Borrowed Past: Place and Identity in Pipestone, Minnesota*. An independent scholar, Sally received the Great Lakes American Studies Association/Ohio University Press Book Award for the publication. Her research and writing focus on the role of the middle class in establishing historical and place-based identities.

**David C. Berkoff, M.S. '95, J.D. '98**, was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in May 2005. Known for the "Berkoff Blastoff," in which he covers the first thirty-five meters of the backstroke lap with a dolphin kick under water, David has won four Olympic medals: a silver and gold in Seoul in 1988, and a bronze and gold in Barcelona in 1992. He was inducted into the Harvard Varsity Hall of Fame in May 2004. David practices law in the Missoula law firm Garlington, Lohn and Robinson. He and his wife, **Shirley Gustafson-Berkhoff '95**, have two children, Cale and Katharine. **Zak Andersen '96**, former chief of staff to Senator Max Baucus, is a principal in the Washington, D.C., office of The Gallatin Group, a Northwest public affairs firm.

**Thomas LaoToua Vang '96** is a business analyst with Financial Systems Support at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. He earned a master's degree in management information systems in 2003 from Metro State University in St. Paul.



'00s  
**Mario Schulzke '02** manages business development for WONGDOODY of Los Angeles. He was a member of the

eam that won the AAAA Monty McKinney Advertising Excellence Award in the Institute of Advanced Advertising Studies' Southern California competition. "During my tenure," Mario writes, "WONG-DOODY has won so much new business I now have to share my cube." **Benjamin Hedge Olson '03** is a Peace Corps volunteer in Albania, where he teaches English to junior high students. His parents joined him this summer and the family traveled to Norway where Ben studied Norse history, his area of interest while at UM. Ben had spent his junior year in Iceland as a member of UM's International Student program. **Desirée Michelle Olson '04**, Missoula, opened Indigo Indexing, which provides freelance indexing services to authors, editors, and publishers of non-fiction books.

## BIRTHS

Alexandra Brynn Fuchs to **Ashley Young Fuchs '98** and **Mark T. Fuchs '95**, February 18, 2005, Missoula

Maxwell Richard Hicks to **Rebecca Rose Hicks '02** and Richard W. Hicks, April 1, 2005, Hampton, VA

Jillian Ann Hecht to **Ashley Ann Hagerman Hecht '92** and Robert Hecht Jr., March 16, 2003, Aliso Viejo, CA

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

*The following alumni and friends have made a commitment to the future of the UM Alumni Association by becoming life members. You can join them by calling (877) UM-ALUMS or visiting our Web site, [www.UMontanaAlumni.org](http://www.UMontanaAlumni.org). Annual memberships and payment plans are available. The Alumni Association thanks them for their support.*

**David M. Beaton '90, M.B.A. '03, J.D. '03**, Missoula

**Connie J. Carter**, Spokane Valley, WA  
**Sharon R. LeFevre Christensen '66, M.A. '67**, Philipsburg

**Eugene M. Christiansen '55**, Apache Junction, AZ

**Melani D. Hansen Coyle '99**, Missoula

**Mary A. McLeod Craigle '88**, Clancy  
**James D. Crane '65**, Albuquerque, NM  
**Karen Hunt Crane '67**, Albuquerque, NM

**Bernadette Grayson**, Portland, OR  
**George W. Grayson '97**, Portland, OR  
**Charles A. Hamilton '88**, Evanston, IL  
**James T. Harrison Jr. '61, J.D. '64**, Surprise, AZ

**Marcia E. Holland '76**, Fairbanks, AK  
**Jerry L. Huggins '83**, Littleton, CO  
**Tracy M. Wilson Huggins '85**, Littleton, CO

**Allen F. Kelley Jr. '55**, Santa Cruz, CA  
**Paul K. Lemcke '77**, Honolulu, HI



## ALUMNI EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2005

- 10 Griz football and tailgate, Eugene, OR
- 18 Ice cream social, Missoula
- 23-10/2 International travel, Greece
- 29-10/7 International travel, Village Life in the Dordogne
- 29-30 House of Delegates annual meeting
- 30 Homecoming: Singing on the Steps, Pep Rally, DAA Awards, 1965 Class Reunion, International Students Reunion

### OCTOBER 2005

- 1 Homecoming Parade, Young Alumni tailgate, football: Griz vs. Weber State
- 2-4 UMAA Board of Directors meeting, Missoula
- 8 Griz football and tailgate, Pocatello, ID

### NOVEMBER 2005

- 5 Griz football and tailgate, Flagstaff, AZ
- 12 Griz football and tailgate, Sacramento, CA
- 19 Griz-Cat football, Bozeman; satellite TV parties

*For more information on these events, call the UM Alumni Association: (877) UM-ALUMS or visit our Web site: [www.UMontanaAlumni.org](http://www.UMontanaAlumni.org).*



**G**reat Falls alumni Don LaBar '65, J.D. '67, Donalee Beary LaBar '65, Judy Schwanke, and Dale Schwanke, '65, J.D. '68, showed up in true Griz spirit atop China's Great Wall during a UMAA-sponsored tour in May. "The [Mandarin China] trip was exceptional," Donalee reports. "We saw some of the most primitive living conditions we have ever witnessed but then stayed in luxurious hotels. Bicycles and scooters. Flashing lights and early sunsets. Multi-course meals served from lazy-Susans. Chinese beer and sampan rides. Silk and jade. Breathtaking scenery in the gorges and the Li River. Unbelievable man-made projects—The Great Wall and the Terra Cotta Soldiers. Lovely Chinese people. Highly educated guides. We were first in line and had the best seats at all the events. We had the greatest care. It was truly an adventure of a lifetime."





NEW LIFE MEMBERS *continued*

Lawson N. Lowe '72, Missoula  
 Marsha J. Stokke Lowe '72, M.A. '74, Missoula  
 Rick R. Mann '99, Beaverton, OR  
 Allison L. Allen McCauley '84, Ankeny, IA  
 Mike G. Otis '03, Great Falls  
 Scott Palmer '86, Missoula  
 Teresa A. Bray Palmer, Missoula  
 Geannine T. Rapp '92, Great Falls  
 Nancy M. Courtright Saine '64, Fountain Hills, AZ  
 Gregory C. Sundberg '01, M.B.A. '03, Missoula  
 Jaclyn Sundberg, Missoula  
 Matthew B. Thiel '86, J.D. '93, Missoula  
 Cynthia Benton Thiel '91, J.D. '94, Missoula  
 Mary L. VanDerhoff '98, Plains  
 Donald K. Wattam, Ed.D. '04, Missoula  
 Marni Wattam, Missoula  
 Tami M. Eldridge Williams '87, M.A.'90, M.A.'92, Ph.D. '01, Great Falls  
 Jeanne Windham '93, Polson  
 Phil P. Yates '67, Puyallup, WA

IN MEMORIAM

*To be included in In Memoriam, the Alumni Association requires a newspaper obituary or a letter of notification from the immediate family. We extend sympathy to the families of the following alumni, faculty, and friends.*

Florence Crouch '25, Orange, CA  
 Elizabeth W. Stratton '26, Sharon, PA  
 Lena L. Mercer Thomas '30, Kalispell  
 Cornelia Klittke Francis '32, Arlee  
 Beth Perham McNally '32, Billings  
 Maxine Davis Nelles '33, Missoula  
 Olive B. Rice '33, Helena  
 Olga Wik Erickson '34, M.A. '67, Miami, FL  
 Mary Beth MacKenzie Snyder '34, Havre  
 Forrest C. Ullman '34, Big Timber  
 Edward H. Dobrinz '35, Grand Junction, CO  
 Tom Martin '35, Billings  
 John Morrison '35, Big Timber  
 Ann Palin Magee Woodhull '35, Billings  
 Richard F. Brewster '36, Buffalo, NY  
 John D. "Jack" Davis '36, Livingston  
 Margaret M. Little '36, Missoula  
 Pearl H. Young '36, East Rockaway, NY  
 Mary E. Zehntner '36, Missoula

Eloise Ruffcorn Armstrong '37, Great Falls  
 James Lynn Baker '37, Long Beach, CA  
 Daniel "Mick" Doyle '37, Polson  
 Guy L. Griswold, M.Ed. '37, Spokane, WA  
 Adelaide Miles Thornton '38, Phoenix  
 John Daniel French, J.D. '39, Ronan  
 George H. Hayes '39, Missoula  
 Louise Monk '39, Kalispell  
 Clayton G. Olson '39, Livingston  
 Arnold H. Anderegg '40, San Pedro, CA  
 Bette Gilmartin '40, Great Falls  
 Rhoda Sporleder Lueck '40, Santa Fe  
 Glen P. Marcus '40, Ventura, CA  
 Roy John Myklebust '40, Chehalis, WA  
 Evelyn Wilks '40, Billings  
 Arthur K. "Jerry" Conrad '41, Conrad  
 William Albert Horning '41, Vancouver, WA  
 Lois Grow Jansson '41, St. Maries, ID  
 Clarence Kommers '41, Bozeman  
 George Ervin Morrison '41, Columbus  
 Kenneth C. Donaldson '42, Rockville, MD  
 Robert W. Schell '42, Great Falls  
 Charles Richard Grady '43, Great Falls  
 Adelbert John Smith '43, Magalia, CA  
 Patsy Cohe Greene '44, Missoula  
 Edward Francis Novis '44, Great Falls  
 Sibyl Flaherty Warren '44, Rancho Cucamonga, CA  
 Marie Murphy Eigeman '45, Spokane, WA  
 F. Dean Mahrt '45, Missoula  
 Richard Joseph McElfresh '45, Stevensville  
 Harold Kenneth Nelson '45, Butte  
 Robert Crossley '46, Missoula  
 Dorothy Taylor Brooks Dalgarno '46, Helena  
 James W. Holley '47, Polson  
 Donald H. McKenzie '47, Daly City, CA  
 James M. Stiles '47, Casper, WY  
 Albert C. "Bud" Clark '48, Billings  
 Shirley Alling Renders '48, Helena  
 E. Carol Rice '48, Galveston, TX  
 Phyllis Timm Svingen '48, Helena  
 Jack W. Burnett, J.D., '49, Billings  
 H. Louis Clack '49, Havre  
 Warren Kirk Harris '49, Missoula  
 Sid C. Johnson '49, Spokane  
 C. G. "Pat" McCarthy '49, Missoula  
 Zorka Mastorovich Mitchell '49, Palmer, AK  
 Tore E. Reuterwall '49, Bozeman  
 Joan Sheffield Wendland '49, Grand Junction, CO

Raymond J. Boulds '50, Poplar  
 William C. Dockins '50, Butte  
 William Schuyler Elliott '50, M.Ed. '55, Helena  
 Patrick E. Lee, M.A. '50, Great Falls  
 Roy Grant Malcolm '50, Missoula  
 Blanka Wojciechowski Martinet '50, San Bruno, CA  
 Margaret Ingeborg Reeb '50, M.A. '51, Livingston  
 Horst H. Schueppel '50, New Berlin, WI  
 Harlan H. Schuttler '50, Bozeman  
 Marvin R. Stephens '50, Lewistown  
 Joseph R. Crowley, M.Ed. '51, Ed.D. '63, Missoula  
 Raymond Dobbs '51, Great Falls  
 Charles G. "Jack" Eybel '51, Bowie, MD  
 Margaret Drew "Peg" Harriman '51, St. Ignatius  
 Orville Lee LaRowe '51, St. George, UT  
 Lee Thomson Morrison '51, Polson  
 Robert Allen Westcott '51, Elliston  
 Helen Duncan Farley '52, Belmont, CA  
 Melvin K. Lackman '52, Billings  
 Janice Ludwig Nelson '52, Spokane, WA  
 Grover S. "Doc" Tyler '52, Stevensville  
 Robert Arnst '53, Cornville, AZ  
 Lambert L. de Mers '53, Port Ludlow, WA  
 Stephen Hucko '53, Sandy, UT  
 John S. Spencer, M.S. '53, St. Paul, MN  
 Larry Thomas Brodie '54, Missoula  
 Annette DesRosier Munson '54, Columbia Falls  
 Paul B. Bean '55, Chetek, WI  
 Matthias W. Koskela '55, Plains  
 Jacqueline Gould Austin '56, Corvallis, OR  
 Ronald Oran Eccleston '56, Anaconda  
 Ronald Lee Farrell '56, Danville, CA  
 Dee Hendricks Shirk '56, Missoula  
 Barbara Simonfy Zinnecker '56, Billings  
 Gary Russell Castlio '57, Polson  
 Peggy Ann Eder Fitschen '57, Ronan  
 James D. Owens '57, Miami, FL  
 C. Jeannette Underdal '57, Great Falls  
 Cara Boggess Corning '58, Tacoma, WA  
 Janet Woodcock Getzenberg '58, Cascade  
 Oscar B. Prestbo, M.Ed. '58, Cascade  
 Jerome Herman Hummel '59, Jacksonville, NC  
 Maxine Morse Blackmer, M.A. '60, Helena  
 Warren D. Hill '60, Helena  
 Barbara Lytle Horton '60, M.B.A. '77, Missoula

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IN MEMORIAM *continued*

John A. Linn '60, Sun City West, AZ  
 Joyce Massey Shull '60, Torrance, CA  
 Herbert K. Anderson '63, Billings  
 Kenneth Eugene Hicketier '63, Missoula  
 Roderick Lee MacDonald '63, Great Falls  
 Jean M. Evenskaas '65, Sacramento  
 Hazel Bandy Jacobsen '65, Ovando  
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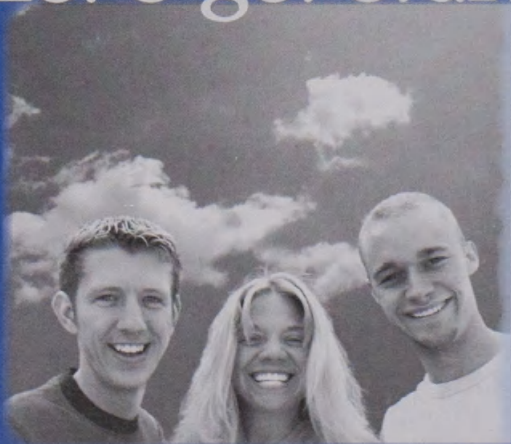
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# Invest in Discovery



Far left, Brett Walker with one of the subjects of the study; clockwise, male sage grouse doing their dance, mosquito larvae, and sage grouse eggs.



*The UM Foundation encourages contributions for individual research projects and programs at the University. To learn how you can help, contact: Lisa Lenard, director of development and alumni relations for the College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, Montana 59807-7159; (800) 443-2593 or (406) 243-5533; lisa.lenard@mso.umt.edu.*

## The Sage Grouse and West Nile: UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY, FINDING A REMEDY

BY CARY SHIMEK

**M**ale sage grouse are the strutting dandies of Montana's eastern prairies. During mating season they inflate large air sacks hidden beneath their brilliant white chest feathers to impress females and warn away lesser males, then release the air with distinctive popping noises.

Doctoral student Brett Walker was surprised to find one of these spectacular creatures dying in July 2003 while working on a UM College of Forestry and Conservation sage grouse study. Fifteen minutes after he found the bird, it died.

What killed it? Walker worried that it might be West Nile virus because 227 bird species have been identified as carriers of the potentially deadly illness. So he and his instructor, UM wildlife biology Professor Dave Naugle, had the bird tested by the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory. Sure enough, West Nile was the culprit.

That first bird was only the beginning. During the remainder of 2003, 25 percent of all radio-collared sage hens in Naugle's study died as a result of the virus and another 10 percent died in 2004.

Sage grouse definitely don't need more stress in their lives. Previously widespread, they no longer exist in half of their original range in North America; recently they narrowly missed listing under the Endangered Species Act. Most of their decline is linked to loss of sagebrush habitat caused by human encroachment. Two remaining strongholds for the birds are southeast Montana and northeast Wyoming.

Naugle's research was funded by the Bureau of Land Management two years ago to explore a potential threat to the grouse: booming coalbed natural gas development on their Montana and Wyoming range. With a new type of energy development and West Nile appearing at roughly the same time, Naugle's team wanted to know if the two might be linked.

Coalbed methane production brings millions of gallons of groundwater to the surface along with natural gas, and the water is then stored in large ponds. Naugle's group learned these ponds provide excellent breeding grounds for *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes—which

happen to feed primarily on birds and therefore are a major host for West Nile. Sage grouse are at risk because their females and young congregate around water, where food is plentiful in late summer.

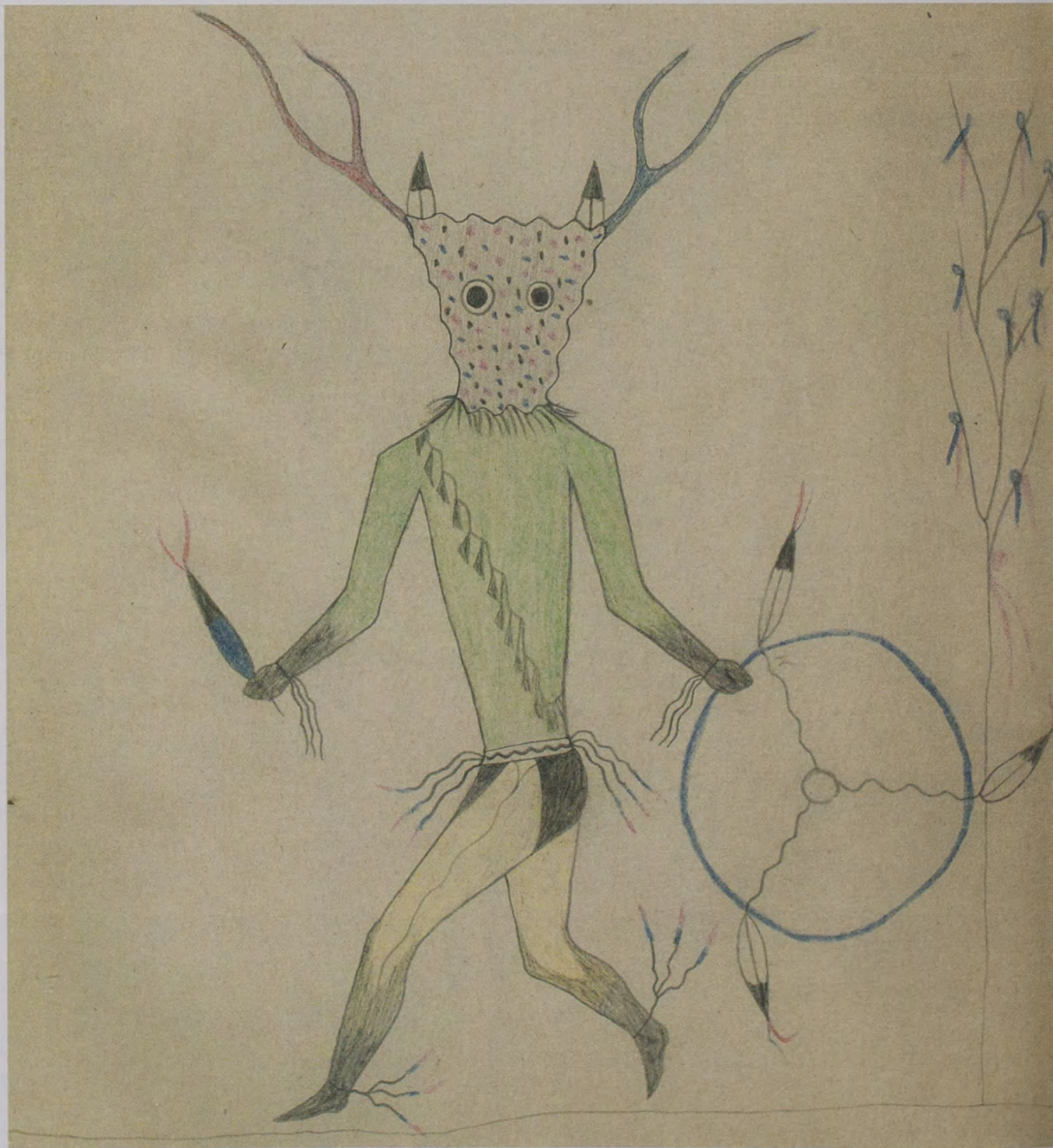
Naugle says researchers are now partnering with industry to build ponds that are less conducive to mosquito production and the spread of West Nile. Future studies of the host dynamics of West Nile may bring Naugle and his staff closer to protecting sage grouse ... and possibly us.

Naugle says the work his team does wouldn't be possible without help from the UM Foundation, which channeled research funding from the Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation and the Exxon Mobil Foundation to his field work. Wolf Creek helped purchase trucks to shuttle scientists around rugged sage grouse habitat, and Exxon helped with general research expenditures.

"The Foundation's expertise and flexibility allowed us to move money quickly so we could focus on the research question at hand," Naugle says.

John Scibek, director of planned giving at the UM Foundation, was instrumental in ensuring the funding made it to scientists in the field. "I've found the caliber of science at UM makes it easier to link our researchers with funding sources eager to help out," he says.

# Artifacts



This image was one of eighteen color pencil sketches in a ledger of American Indian art found recently by a Mansfield Library staff member. The ledger, which provides a rare look into the life and culture of the Plains Indians, is estimated to be more than 100 years old and had been donated by Missoula resident Genevieve Prochnow in 1962. She inherited the ledger from her father, John S. Parke, who acquired it while serving as an officer in the U.S. Army in South Dakota. During the winter of 1890-91, Parke was assistant adjutant general at Rosebud Agency, home to the Lakota Sioux. The artwork is believed to have been drawn by Walter Bone Shirt, a Lakota Sioux, known to have created commissioned art from the 1860s to 1890s, when Plains Indians were being relocated to reservations. An appraiser's analysis suggests that the drawing may depict an animal dancer/dreamer, possibly an elk dreamer.

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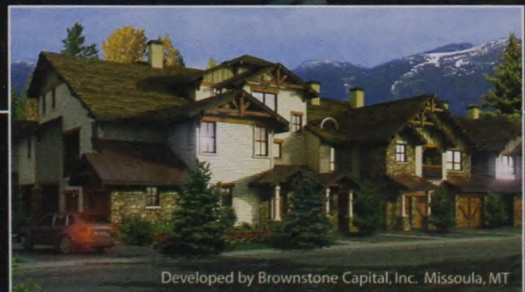


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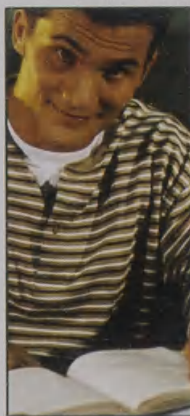
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