Greetings from Dean Comer

Dear Friends,

With spring in the air and commencement right around the corner, it is an exciting time to be on campus!

My congratulations to the class of 2011! In this newsletter the College of Arts and Sciences celebrates accomplishments of our students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends. It’s with great pride that we have an opportunity to share their stories.

The College of Arts and Sciences is the largest college on campus with 23 departments and 6 programs. We are committed to the students who are studying in the various disciplines and are also committed to the people of Montana to provide high quality teaching and focused research in the pursuit of new knowledge. We promote substantive interactions between the sciences and humanities in order to ensure a true interdisciplinary liberal arts education.

In the coming year we hope to: increase the number of students able to partake in a study abroad experience; enhance standing in graduate education; and partner with colleges across campus in aiding student success. Your support helps us meet these goals as well as continually enhancing the educational experiences of our students.

Thank you for remaining connected to the College and for your support of our work. I encourage you to peruse our revised and updated website at www.cas.umt.edu for updates within the College. Please feel free to contact us with questions, comments, or news.

Cheers,
Chris Comer
Sarah Schafer: Comm. Studies
Sarah Schafer is a co-owner of the Cutting Crew, a local Missoula hair salon. As a successful business woman, she has completed her degree in a relatively short amount of time. "This semester she took more than 21 credit hours and has been a wonderful asset and top-performing student," explains Communication Studies Assistant Professor Craig Engstrom. "Sarah is a perfect example of an entrepreneur who will benefit from a true Liberal Arts education."

Sarah made the decision to come back and finish her college degree about a year ago. "I had 30 credits left and I went all out. The 2011 spring semester I enrolled in 21 credits. It has been a very busy year but I never gave up, and I had a goal I never lost site of."

Sarah's Communication Studies degree will perfectly complement her current cosmetology license. "I can get a number of jobs in the hair styling industry that someone without a degree might not be able to." After graduation, Sarah plans to work for a product company in Public Relations or Education; she hopes to someday own a chain of salons.

"I feel the College of Arts and Sciences (Communication Studies) has played a huge part in my life. Through what I have learned, I have become a better listener and have improved on the ways in which I interact with clients and coworkers at my salon. The continued support from professors has been very inspirational, and shown that they truly care about my education. I am very proud to be a graduate in the Communication Studies Department."

Sarah plans to show her gratitude to the Communication Studies Department by including them in her future philanthropic priorities. "I plan to support the Communication Studies Department on an annual basis to show my appreciation for their support during my time on campus. I would love to set up a scholarship for students who work full time and go to school full time, but aren't always able to maintain the best grades because they can't find the extra time to study. My hopes are that by creating a scholarship I am able to help students who have no financial help, work full time and maintain high aspirations and dedication to their education."

Wabusk Ragged Robe: Native American Studies and Anthropology.

Wabusk Ragged Robe is a member of the Gros Ventre (White Clay) Nation of Fort Belknap, Montana. Wabusk is a student, a husband, a father of two, a proud tribal college graduate from Stone Child College and most recently, a graduate of The University of Montana. Wabusk now holds bachelor degrees in Native American Studies and Anthropology. The first member of his family ever to attend a four year institution, Wabusk feels fortunate and credits his late mother Edaay Ragged Robe for "instilling pride of my culture, and teaching me to utilize my Native American heritage to help me achieve my goals and dreams. I dedicate and attribute all success in my educational endeavors to her."

Wabusk has been accepted into the Anthropology – Cultural Heritage Graduate Program for the Fall of 2011. "My elderly people often remind me that a degree from a university will take you a long way, but our Indian ways will take us the rest of the way. We are indebted to all those that came before us, and left a trail for us to follow. We have a unique opportunity to help build upon the foundation of our predecessors, which we hope will make the pursuit of higher education for the next generation of students accessible and rewarding. Through our efforts at The University of Montana, we are ensuring that generations of Indian scholars are going to burst through that door that we are eagerly holding open for them."

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Wabusk hopes to work for one of the Montana tribal colleges, in helping to implement four-year accreditation on campuses. He feels gratitude towards the faculty and staff of both the Native American Studies Department and the Anthropology Department, for the guidance, counsel and support they provided during his years at The University of Montana. Wabusk has future plans to honor his mother Edaay Ragged Robe, by creating a Native American Studies Scholarship in her name. It seems there is nothing more fitting than to honor the woman who helped him achieve his educational goals, by providing the same opportunity for a Native American Studies student in need.
Nathan Miller: English

Nathan Miller started at The University of Montana in the spring semester of 2008, and is finishing his Bachelor of Arts in English (with a minor in Philosophy) in three and a half years. As a student, Nathan has garnered either Dean’s List or 4.0 GPA List honors for every semester he has spent at The University of Montana, and over the last three years has been the recipient of five academic scholarships, including the Jane Buttrey Memorial Scholarship, the Watkins Scholarship for original undergraduate research, and the English Department’s Maureen Mansfield Scholarship. Nathan’s academic accomplishments are all the more gratifying given his employment throughout the majority of time at U of M as an assistant manager at City Brew Coffee in downtown Missoula, a juggling act which made life, as he puts it, “a little bit interesting at times.”

Nathan attributes his successes as a student in large part to the support he has received from professors and faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences. “My professors, both in English and Philosophy, have been incredibly supportive and generous - they’ve written letters of recommendation, they’ve gone out of their way to offer help, they’ve done independent studies on top of their regular teaching responsibilities. They’ve been the ones who have made it possible, and I expect to stay in touch with a number of them for years to come.” Eric Reimer Assistant Professor in the English Department describes Nathan as “one of the most impressive and accomplished undergraduate students of literature I’ve encountered, one of the few to bring nearly a graduate student sensibility (in terms of intellectual curiosity, rigor, and deep thoughtfulness) to his coursework.” After graduation, Nathan is planning to spend the summer trying to enjoy life in Missoula a little bit after the “managed chaos” of the last several years. His next step: attending law school this fall at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Nathan is interested in studying constitutional law, jurisprudence, and white-collar crime. He is a past winner of the most inspirational teacher of the year award and the Burlington Northern teaching award. He is a cultural and intellectual historian of Europe with a particular interest in Italian terrorism. For the past twenty-four years, he has been the coordinator of the President’s Lecture Series, bringing to campus ten speakers annually in the humanities, arts, and sciences. He is a past winner of the most inspirational teacher of the year award and the Burlington Northern teaching award.

Rond Perrin has inspired many students with his discussion of political theory at The University of Montana. He became a national authority on public humanities work through his leadership of Humanities Montana and participation on the Board of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. He has served on the board of the Missoula Cultural Council and has traveled the state of Montana presenting public lectures on the humanities.

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After law school, Nathan would like to set up a scholarship for literature students in the English department who are interested in the relationship between literature and philosophy. “I really found it rewarding to study the two disciplines together. My undergraduate thesis, which I did in conjunction with the Watkins Scholarship, focused on the relationship between James Joyce’s novel Ulysses and the philosophy of Nietzsche. It was a great experience, and I’d love to encourage other students who have similar interests.”

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Did you know?

- The College of Arts and Sciences has 4,830 undergraduate students and 749 graduate students.
- The Creative Writing/Master of Fine Arts program is one of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious. It is ranked in the top 20 in the country.
- The Environmental Studies Program is one of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious. It is ranked in the top 20 in the country.
- CAS students study in more than 22 countries through study abroad and exchange agreements.
- During the 2010 academic year, 144 privately funded scholarships were awarded in the College of Arts and Sciences, totaling more than $400,000.

Graduating Student Profiles

Congratulations to the 2011 Governor’s Humanities Award recipients Richard Drake and Ron Perrin.

Richard Drake is professor and former chair of History at the University of Montana. He is a cultural and intellectual historian of Europe with a particular interest in Italy. He has published extensively on the subject of Italian terrorism. For the past twenty-four years, he has been the coordinator of the President’s Lecture Series, bringing to campus ten speakers annually in the humanities, arts, and sciences. He is a past winner of the most inspirational teacher of the year award and the Burlington Northern teaching award.

Ron Perrin has inspired many students with his discussion of political theory at The University of Montana. He became a national authority on public humanities work through his leadership of Humanities Montana and participation on the Board of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. He has served on the board of the Missoula Cultural Council and has traveled the state of Montana presenting public lectures on the humanities.

View other recipients at www.humanitiesmontana.org/GovernorAwards/governorsawards.php
Homegrown Technology

Collaborative Efforts Put Alex Philp and his High-Tech Companies on the Map

By Ginny Merriam | Photos By Todd Goodrich
Excerpt from The Montanan, Spring 2011

Alex Philp might have lived happily in Choteau, making maps of the movements of bears and wolves and bobcats for the U.S. Forest Service and embracing a life in the outdoors. He might have been a philosopher or a historian grounded in ancient Greek. He could have answered the pull of an academic life in environmental ethics or geography.

Instead, today he brings all those interests to the world of technology. As president and chief brain among many at Missoula-based GCS Research, Philp, who earned a master’s and a doctorate degree at The University of Montana, is fiercely driven and wildly innovative. He works every day—fourteen to sixteen hours worth—at staying five to eight years ahead of the advancing technology front.

At its most simple, the work of GCS takes geographic information, applies computer software to it, and pairs that up with hard equipment to provide elegant, advanced solutions to real-life problems and needs. “World-class GIS solutions,” the company says. “Your data. Smarter.” The products of the nine-year-old firm are at work around the world, unnoticeable to average people but helpful to millions.

“We’re investing in the Montana work ethic,” he says. “That’s why we hire Montanans. I can’t get enough of them.” Montana can stop its traditional “brain drain,” Philp believes, by creating advanced technology centers that pay educated, professional Montanans good salaries for fulfilling work. Leadership and innovation must be the hallmark of the American position in the world.

“We have got to retain that,” he says. “We cannot become a bunch of drooling consumers. We’ve got to be the innovators. We’ve got to take control of our destiny.”

That suits The University of Montana, where GCS now funds a computer science scholarship, just fine.

Philp established a $10,000 scholarship fund in December 2010 as part of the UM Foundation’s Missoula Business Drive. “We wanted to do something meaningful to continue and expand the outstanding relationship we have with the Department of Computer Science at UM,” Philp says. “In order to create high-paying jobs and employ University of Montana graduates, we need to do everything we can to support scholarships, innovation and dedication to excellence at the University.”

The science and technology jobs of the future are entrepreneurial, says Joe Fanguy, UM’s director of technology transfer.

Philp is an example of someone who launches a business that fits Montana’s environment, its region, and its work force, Fanguy says. It’s the kind of business that helps Montana be part of the new economy that’s technological and entrepreneurial.

“That’s why we hire Montanans. I can’t get enough of them.”

“I think it will be very critical for us to think on a regional level,” Fanguy says. “We have to make ourselves a part of that regional effort, that national effort, and make ourselves part of that team. That’s our opportunity. If you think about competing on a global level today, you can’t do that alone. There’s great opportunity for the city, for the community, for the state of Montana.”

“I have one of the premier think tanks in Montana,” Philp says. “I get the work ethic. And Montanans get the chance for their kids to stay home.”

*Please visit the Montanan link for the full story - http://www.umt.edu/montanan/s11/Homegrown%20Technology.asp
UM Educator Selected to Help Advance Earthquake Science

Rebecca Bendick Kier, a University of Montana geosciences assistant professor, was one of a select number of renowned U.S. scientists invited as delegates to the 2011 bilateral workshop under the Sino-U.S. earthquake studies protocol. The high-level scientific exchange for earthquake science and engineering, supported by the National Science Foundation and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, took place April 20-25 in Chengdu, China, the capital of Sichuan and the site of the destructive and deadly Wenchuan earthquake in 2008. The workshop is the second in a series aimed to coordinate needed collaboration between U.S. and Chinese scientists to reduce earthquake-related disasters.

Bendick Kier co-chaired a workshop session titled “Tectonics of Continental Deformation” and gave a talk on mechanical heterogeneity in continental deformation. The presentations addressed where and why earthquakes happen on continents. Continental events are especially important from the scientific perspective, Bendick Kier said, because they are harder to forecast and simulate than events on typical tectonic plate boundaries, such as the recent one in Japan.

“In the past decade, more than 600,000 people have been killed in seismic disasters,” she said. “This number points out the pressing need for a better understanding of both earthquakes themselves and how to mitigate their effect using both better engineering before events and better emergency response afterward.”

“The distribution of fatalities underscores the importance of both strategies,” she said. “Many more people die in earthquakes in the developing world than in similar-sized events in developed areas. And more people die in earthquakes in unexpected settings, such as far from known tectonic plate boundaries, than in similar-sized events with well-known seismic risk.”

Bendick Kier said earthquake scientists in the U.S. and China have made a specific commitment to share resources and research to make the most rapid possible progress on earthquake science and engineering to advance basic research and save lives. Earthquake scientists worldwide are responding to the recent sequence of very large and very destructive earthquakes. Not only have these focused attention on successes and failures in seismic disaster mitigation, they also have vastly increased the amount of scientific data about large events. Japan is the most heavily instrumented nation on earth for earthquake science, so the 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquake and tsunami observations can be used to test old theories and develop new ones about how, why, when, and where earthquakes happen.

In the U.S., very large earthquakes are expected throughout the entire west coast area, with particular hazards in the Seattle region, parts of California, and southern Alaska. Anomalous earthquakes, just the kind of events that cause disproportionate damage relative to their magnitude, may also occur in the North American interior. They are dangerous exactly because scientists have little ability to anticipate any of the characteristics that contribute to damage.

RESEARCH UPDATE

Vision magazine is a publication of the Office of the Vice President for Research and Development. The 2010 issue features the work of many CAS researchers. We highlight the work of these faculty below; please see the magazine for more details on these talented researchers and their riveting research.

www.umt.edu/urelations/pubs/Vision.aspx

- Jerry Bromesheck (Biological Sciences) and team investigate the causes of Colony Collapse Disorder in bees.
- Joel Harper (Geosciences) travels to Alaska and Greenland to drill holes in the ice. These samples enable him to better predict the motion of glaciers and the effects of global warming.
- Diana Six (Biological Sciences), an expert in bark beetle ecology, predicts the Whitebark Pine will become “functionally extinct.”
- Erick Greene (Biological Sciences), a renowned bird expert, studies the ospreys along the Clark Fork river. He has found alarmingly high concentrations of Mercury in osprey chicks and is determining the effect this has on the osprey population.
- Maury Vallett (Flathead Lake Biological Station) studies how streams work to cleanse themselves.

Plus:
- Jeffrey Good (Biological Sciences) uses mice in order to understand the evolution of reproductive isolation. His findings are part of a broader work on the divergence of humans and Neanderthals. His work is featured in UM’s Research View: www.umt.edu/urelations/rview/summer10/good.html
How many of us love books, love reading them and love gazing at them – be it at a bookstore, a library or a friend’s collection? We love to look at the covers, imagine their contents and wish we had time to read them all! How many of us have looked at the contents of a bookshelf, wondering what these books tell us about their owners? We somehow feel we can get some insight into the owner from their book collection. Is the same true about a University, a College, or a Department? We invite you to decide.

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new electronic bookshelf* which features the work of faculty and alumni in the College of Arts and Sciences. On this bookshelf you will find a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction from top scholars. At the base of the bookshelf you will find a mechanism to put your own book on the shelf; we ask that you help us build our electronic book collection!

In addition to the electronic bookshelf, the Dean’s office has a new physical bookshelf which also displays the work of faculty and alumni in the College. If you are on campus, please stop by and see it.

Here is a sample of what’s on our bookshelf.

**BEYOND THE AMERICAN PALE**

*The Irish in the West, 1845-1910*

By David M. Emmons

Convention has it that Irish immigrants in the nineteenth century confined themselves mainly to industrial cities of the East and Midwest. The truth is that Irish Catholics went everywhere in America and often had as much of a presence in the West as in the East. In *Beyond the American Pale*, David M. Emmons examines this multifaceted experience of westering Irish and, in doing so, offers a fresh and discerning account of America’s westward expansion.

“Irish in the West” is not a historical contradiction, but it is-and was a historical problem. Irish Catholics were not supposed to be in the West—that was where Protestant Americans went to reinvent themselves. For many of the same reasons that the spread of southern slavery was thought to profane the West, a Catholic presence there was thought to contradict it-to contradict America’s Protestant individualism and freedom. The Catholic Irish were condemned as the clannish, backward remnants of an old cultural world that Americans self-consciously sought to leave behind. The sons and daughters of Erin were not assimilated, and because they were not assimilable, they should be kept beyond the American pale.

David M. Emmons is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Montana, and the author of *The Butte Irish: Class and Ethnicity in an American Mining Town*, 1875-1925.

**PRINCESS ACADEMY**

*By Shannon Hale*

High on the side of rocky Mount Eskel, far from the valleys where gardens are green and lush, where lowlanders make laws, Miri’s family has lived forever, pounding a living from the stone of the mountain itself. For as long as she can remember, Miri has dreamed of working alongside the other villagers in the quarries of her beloved mountainside. But Miri has never been allowed to work there, perhaps, she thinks, because she is so small.

Then word comes from the valley that the king’s priests have divined Mount Eskel to be the home of the prince’s bride-to-be—the next princess. The prince himself will travel to the village to choose her, but first all eligible girls must attend a makeshift mountain academy to prepare themselves for royal lowlander life.

At the school, Miri soon finds herself confronted by bitter competition among the girls and her own conflicting desires to be chosen by the prince. Yet when danger comes to the academy and threatens all their lives, it is Miri, named for a tiny mountain flower, who must find a way to save her classmates—and the one chance to leave the mountain each of them is determined to secure as her own.

From acclaimed author Shannon Hale comes the Newbery Honor-winning novel about would-be princesses and one small but determined girl’s destiny. Shannon Hale is an alumni of the Creative Writing program, receiving an MFA in 2000. She is the author of numerous other books including *Enna Burning, the Goose Girl and Calamity Jack.*

**A PROBLEM SOLVING APPROACH TO MATHEMATICS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS, Tenth Edition**

*by Rick Billstein, Shlomo Libeskind, and Johnny W. Lott*

The new edition of this best-selling text includes an increased focus on active and collaborative learning, while maintaining its emphasis on developing skills and concepts. With a wealth of pedagogical tools, as well as relevant discussions of standard curricula and assessments, this book will be a valuable textbook now and a reference later for future teachers.

Rick Billstein is a Professor and Johnny Lott a Professor Emeritus, both in the Department of Mathematical Science at the University of Montana. Shlomo Libeskind is a Mathematics Professor at the University of Oregon.

View the electronic book shelf at [www.cas.umt.edu/casweb/bookshelf/bookshelf.cfm](http://www.cas.umt.edu/casweb/bookshelf/bookshelf.cfm) or by visiting the CAS web site [www.cas.umt.edu/](http://www.cas.umt.edu/) and selecting the link CAS Electronic Bookshelf under the Quick Links, on the right.
Faculty and Staff Awards
2011 COX Award for Teaching Excellence

The Helen and Winston Cox Educational Excellence Award is an award made annually to UM faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences who are not yet tenured based on superior contributions to the education of UM students. This award was established by the Cox children in honor of their parents. At various points in his career, Winston Cox was a teacher in a one room school house and an oil man. His children chose to recognize the important contribution of teachers. This prestigious award helps the College of Arts and Sciences attract and retain high quality faculty. The 2011 award winners are:

Duncan Campbell, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
Nathaniel Levtow, Assistant Professor, Liberal Studies Program

Awards are made on the basis of superior teaching, advising and mentoring of students. Additionally, awardees are accessible to students beyond the typical office hours and class time. They are engaged in scholarly activities as well as campus and community service. This is the highest honor given by the College for early career faculty specifically to honor their achievements as teachers and mentors. We congratulate Professor Campbell and Professor Levtow for their outstanding teaching and congratulate them on this award.

Professor Campbell is an outstanding teacher who “balances rigor and intellectual stimulation with a caring and supportive environment.” He is a tireless advocate for improving students’ learning experiences. He is an innovative teacher who uses the latest research results in his teaching. Dr. Campbell is known for his dedication outside the classroom, supervising research projects of undergraduate and graduate students who work in his lab, assisting students in obtaining scholarships and providing quality mentoring. Indeed, Dr. Campbell is one of the few faculty members who serve as emergency backup for students in regard to client-related concerns outside of business hours. Many of Professor Campbell’s students remark on his high quality of teaching, his respect for students and his knowledge of the material.

Professor Levtow is “a brilliant young scholar and a dedicated, conscientious and gifted teacher.” Students describe Dr. Levtow as a teacher who is professional while at the same time being approachable, available and helpful. He is a courteous listener. His classes focus on critical thinking and he teaches his students how to analyze texts in an engaging manner. A colleague observes “he managed to enthrall the students who had little background in the area and to stimulate discussion.” Likewise a student makes a very similar remark; “during his lectures he brought the material to life, made its study relevant to the modern age and offered us a glimpse of the great depth and enticing mystery that surround the ancient world.” Student comments demonstrate the positive effect that Nathaniel has on his students; in fact one student comments that he thinks of Professor Levtow whenever learning new material!

The University also recognizes the contributions of the faculty and staff at two separate awards ceremonies. The first, Charter Day, celebrates the founding of the University. The second, UM Employee Recognition Day, recognizes the service and dedication of all UM employees as well as the teaching and research prowess of the faculty. The list below shows those awards won by faculty and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences. Congratulations to all!

2011 Faculty and Staff Awards from UM Employee Recognition Day
Distinguished Scholar Award - F. Richard Hauer, Professor, Flathead Lake Biological Station
Distinguished Teaching Award - Jonathan Graham, Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences
Graduate Assistant Teaching Award - Erik Aschehoug, Division of Biological Sciences
Nancy Borgmann Diversity Award - Penny Kukuk, Research Professor, Division of Biological Sciences
Outstanding Faculty Advising Award - Daniel Spencer, Associate Professor, Environmental Studies Program
Outstanding Staff Award–Excellence in Job Performance – Jennifer Fowler, Computer Specialist, Department of Physics and Astronomy

2011 Charter Day Awards:
Montana Faculty Service Award - Christine Fiore, Professor and Director of Clinical Training, Department of Psychology
The George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment - Rick Billstein, Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences
Are you interested in supporting the College of Arts and Sciences?
If you have supported the College of Arts and Sciences in the past – Thank you!
If you would like to continue to support the College or make your first contribution, please visit this CAS online donations link.
https://safe.onlinemontana.com/onlinemontana/fundraiser/?s=6049

Or send a check to:
The University of Montana Foundation
C/O College of Arts and Sciences
PO Box 7159
Missoula, MT 59807
Please add a note on the reference line of your check if you would like to donate to a particular scholarship or program within the college.

If you have any questions about donations, please contact:
Kelley Willett at kelley.willett@mso.umt.edu or
Sarah Hinkle at sarah.hinkle@mso.umt.edu
Or by calling 406.243.2632

We are happy to provide you with information about our giving programs including the Dean's Opportunity Fund, annual gifts, the President’s Club, setting up a scholarship, endowments, or including the College of Arts and Sciences in your will or estate plans.

Coming to Campus?
The college and The University of Montana have various events, lectures, programs and classes going on all the time. Please contact us if you would like to visit the College, get a tour of the new buildings on campus, attend a class, meet the Dean, or chat about your time here.