T H E  D E A N ’ S  C O L U M N

“The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness.” – John Muir

It has been a vital and productive autumn semester here at The University of Montana. Students in the Davidson Honors College have accomplished great things as campus leaders and as writers, researchers, and professionals in their chosen disciplines.

Davidson Honors College freshmen swept the 2009 First-Year Reading Experience Essay Contest, which called for essays on The Confessions of Max Tivoli by Andrew Sean Greer. The winners were Ellen Boland in the personal essay category and Joe McGlenn in the scholarly/analytical essay category. Their essays are now published on the Mansfield Library website: http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/fyreading

In November, five DHC students presented their research at the National Collegiate Honors Conference in Washington, D.C. Micah Everson presented a paper on the history of secondary education in Montana; Samantha Stephens and Ashleen Williams presented a poster on the future of U.S. diplomacy; Julie Hamilton and Jessica Peterson presented their research on civic engagement in a global city.

Three DHC students are now working as interns in Washington, D.C., through the Washington Center for Internships. Julie Hamilton is working as a public relations consultant for Tricom Associates; Joseph Caldwell is interning with the Torture Abolition Survivors Support Coalition International; and Jessica Peterson is serving as a policy analyst for the Pan American Health and Education Foundation. All three of these students report that their internships are engaging, informative, and relevant to their future professional development.

Twelve Honors students serve on the Student Advisory Council, a group that meets with the DHC Dean each semester. The Council serves as a sounding board for the Dean, presents ideas and suggestions, and helps to develop courses and set policy. In recent months, students on the Council have been working to design a new International Patio adjacent to the DHC Lounge. In collaboration with International Programs and the UM Foundation, these students envision an accessible outdoor space that evokes an enclosed garden, with walkways, benches, and tables made of sustainable materials, suitable for social events, visiting speakers, poetry readings, musical performances, and class meetings. The International Patio project promises to create a wonderful outdoor teaching and learning space that will serve as a resource for the entire campus. We will continue to share information about this project as it goes forward.

We in the DHC are sincerely grateful for the generous support of our alumni and friends. Thanks to your assistance, the DHC continues to offer exceptional learning opportunities to students of all majors. We could not do it without you!

-James McKusick

A D V I S I N G  F E AT U R E

From Laure Pengelly Drake, Director of External Scholarships and Advising

“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind.” Dr. Seuss

It’s not often that I disagree with the wisdom of Dr. Seuss, but I would argue that the second part of his comment is not strong enough: those who matter will not only not mind but will sit up and pay attention to those who know who they are and what they think and who have the courage to act on that self-knowledge. I have the privilege, through teaching classes and advising for the DHC and mentoring for external scholarships for the whole university, of helping students develop both self-knowledge and possible paths for doing something about it. Each program requires a different combination of qualities, but the core elements for most graduate funding and the more academically inclined scholarships are competence and commitment. Evidence of character and coherence is required for many of the external scholarships.

High competence in your studies, art, social engagements, service, and leadership is an essential aspect of being who you are and saying what you think as well as a prerequisite for consideration for external scholarships. Commitment to a plan of study and action is a challenge at any age because life intervenes, but the scholarship world wants to know that the applicants are genuinely interested in and prepared for the plans they propose.

http://www.dhc.umt.edu/
Character is a far more significant factor in external scholarship applications than in graduate school applications. The professors and others who write reference letters need to know you in order to write effectively on your behalf. If you want to be a professor, for instance, I would want to know that you love your subject but also that you love sharing it and have a strong commitment to stewardship of the students whose lives you would affect.

Coherence is the piece of the scholarship puzzle with which I wrestle most often. The upshot of this particular scholarship preference is that students need the best possible advising as early as possible in order for them to know their passions and find outlets for leadership in those arenas as early as possible.

If you are interested in applying for this year’s competitions for the Goldwater, Udall, and Truman Scholarships, or the Carnegie Junior Peace Fellowship for research in Washington, DC, or other nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships, please contact me immediately to apply; some slots remain open for a second round of competition. Students at any level and recent alumni who are interested in the Rhodes, Marshall, Gates Cambridge, and Mitchell Scholarships should contact me now to begin the preparation and application processes. Good luck to all!

Presidential Leadership Scholars

University of Montana Presidential Leadership Scholarships have been awarded to 24 exceptional incoming UM freshmen. The scholarships recognize outstanding talent, academic performance, leadership, and contribution to the community.

This year’s scholarship winners were chosen from a field of more than 350 qualified applicants. Scholarship recipients become members of the Davidson Honors College and receive a four-year tuition waiver plus an additional $5,000 to $7,500 per year.

Montana’s crop of 2009 Presidential Leadership Scholars are Zachary Brown, Peter Burns and Megan Hatcher, Bozeman; Gwendolyn Mann, Cascade; Ketti Wilhelm, Columbia Falls; Ellen Boland and Bryn Hagfors, Great Falls; Patrick Funk, Helena; Elizabeth Thompson, Manhattan; Sara Anderson, Kyle Doyle, Kristy Kee and Shane Pronovost, Missoula; Elizabeth Bierer, Pinesdale; Samantha Mitchell, Turah; and Bert Carlstrom, Willow Creek.

Eight Presidential Leadership Scholars come to UM from other states. They are Grace Yon of Alameda, Calif.; David George of LaGrange, Ky.; Mark Jackson of Northville, Mich.; Kendall Houghton of Tigard, Ore.; Jared Fischer of Custer, S.D.; Abigail Wyatt of Bainbridge Island, Wash.; Abigail Nastan of Everett, Wash.; and Erika Grantier of Roslyn, Wash.

"This is a remarkably talented group of scholars, and we expect great things from them" said DHC Dean James McKusick. "With generous support from many DHC donors, these scholarships truly raise the bar for academic accomplishment at UM."

From Ways of Knowing to Seeing the World

A lesson learned early in my college career comes to mind with each new challenge. Four years ago, Professor Gary Hawk told my Ways of Knowing class, “Reading Kierkegaard is like diving into concrete.” Despite a positive disinclination to the philosopher, I left the course with a general understanding of Kierkegaard and a new personal mantra.

Never more than on my first day interning at the U.S. Embassy in Paris did I feel as if my toes clung to a diving board above a pool of cement. Being in the economic section with a background only in journalism and political science, in a city with three times Montana’s population, and at a renowned U.S. diplomatic post—I saw hard, gray concrete. Beyond that, I was expected to conduct myself in business and diplomatic terms en français. Then, just as when I began the Kierkegaard excerpts or presented my undergraduate research, I took a deep breath and jumped.
What began as work translating French news for updates to Washington became in-depth macroeconomic and trade writing for official reports. I progressed from watching broadcasts of National Assembly sessions to meeting with French senators and industry leaders. Now, six weeks into the internship, I laugh off first-day jitters. I consider any work I do here as a reflection of my college experience, made possible by the Davidson Honors College.

By granting me a Presidential Leadership Scholarship, the DHC inspired me to take full advantage of my four years at the University of Montana. I began with my first love, journalism, and sprinted through an international relations and comparative politics degree during my final two years. A nerd to the core, I squeezed in French classes between editing part-time, teaching a freshman seminar, designing magazines, and volunteering for the UM Advocates and other organizations. But for many DHC students, that's standard.

My fellow interns in Paris come from well-known schools and international relations programs. About half are pursuing master's degrees. I believe, however, that being an honors student at UM allowed me to reach farther than I could have anywhere else. With the help of friends and professors, I studied in Ireland, presented research at the National Collegiate Honors Council, and represented UM at the National Model United Nations conference in New York--achievements far beyond the Oval.

I would encourage all of you, DHC students, to keep diving in.

Ashley will graduate in December with degrees in journalism and international relations and a minor in French. She plans to work preferably in international relations or languages before attending graduate school for international law, security or economic studies. And then, who knows?

Hello From the Honors Student Association by Brittany Wooley

Honors students do more than curl up and study on the comfy couches in the Davidson Honors College lounge. Some of UM's most highly motivated students have also been known to dress up, dance all night, bowl, hike, and eat lots of junk food.

The Honors Student Association (HSA) enjoyed a busy first semester. The year started off with a variety of getting-to-know-you activities. HSA members hiked the M, went bowling, and chowed down on ice cream while watching a movie the weekend before classes started.

Over 150 people ate burgers and hotdogs at the Welcome Back BBQ in September. Then, at a game night later on that month, HSA officers had to order more pizza because so many people came to play Apples-to-Apples.

In October, after months of preparation, the Honors Student Association hosted the Homecoming Dance, themed “Sweet Home Montana,” for the University of Montana. After marching in the Homecoming Parade with Habitat for Humanity, HSA members put together the finishing touches for the dance. That night, UM students dressed up in their best western attire and danced the night away to music put on by a live DJ in a room lit by glow-sticks and decorated with straw bales, saddles, and lots of balloons.

Also in October, HSA organized the annual “Trick or Eat” food drive. Students dressed in creative Halloween costumes went trick or treating for canned food for the Missoula Food Bank, bringing in nearly 1,400 pounds of food.

Now, HSA is taking the funds raised by the Homecoming Dance and adopting a family and a veteran for Christmas through the Office for Civic Engagement. HSA will host a present-wrapping, cookie-decorating party along with other events to usher in the holiday season while helping those in need. They will also support OCE with their present-wrapping night and anything else needed.

Next semester, HSA is planning to do a lot of service and other enriching activities. The officers currently are working out the details for an “Invisible Children” fundraiser, Undergraduate Research Night, and a variety of cultural events. The year started out with a smash, and, with the help of Davidson Honors College students, will end even greater.

All are encouraged to check out our Facebook page (Honors Student Association-University of Montana) or contact the officers with any questions. The 2009-2010 officers are Brittany Wooley (President), Kathy Steinhoff (Vice President), Kris Lange (Business Manager), and Hannah Anderson (Program Coordinator). -Brittany Wooley, HSA President, 2009-2010
A place for alumni and friends of the Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana to reconnect, catch up, share photos, tell stories, and participate in planning the All-Class Reunion of UM Honors Alumni at Homecoming 2011.

Check out our Facebook group at http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=164884334563

Save the Date! An all-class reunion of Davidson Honors College and UM Honors Program alumni will take place on Friday of Homecoming 2011 in celebration of the 20th and 30th anniversaries respectively of the College and the Program. Additionally, 2011 will mark the 15th anniversary of the Davidson Honors College building, which was completed in 1996. Although the UM Alumni Association has yet to release the exact date, Homecoming 2011 will occur between mid-September and mid-October. All DHC and Honors Program alumni, current and former faculty, deans, staff, and friends are encouraged to hold this time frame open and plan to join the festivities.

**2009-10 Honors Scholarship Winners**

Every year, the DHC awards Honors Scholarships to deserving students who meet the scholarship criteria. Special thanks to the private donors who make these awards possible!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Scholarship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassandra Abel</td>
<td>Hobson, MT</td>
<td>Pre-Medical Scholarship in the DHC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erin Axelrod</td>
<td>West Linn, OR</td>
<td>Joseph Thiebes Jr. Honors Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brinna Boettger</td>
<td>Lewistown, MT</td>
<td>Wayne and Sallie Linnell Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Brunson</td>
<td>Stevensville, MT</td>
<td>Patrick R. and Mary Kitte Robins Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tessa DeDominic</td>
<td>Great Falls, MT</td>
<td>Davidson Companies Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Doyle</td>
<td>Hardin, MT</td>
<td>Magpie Feathers Woman Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin Gustafson</td>
<td>Pony, MT</td>
<td>Weeks-Mattelin Legacy Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alysa Kelly</td>
<td>Missoula, MT</td>
<td>Robert Rogan Burchenal Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coleman Pape</td>
<td>Stevensville, MT</td>
<td>Violet M. Boileau Memorial Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathleen Steinhoff</td>
<td>Corvallis, MT</td>
<td>Andrew and Wendy Davidson Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tysen Timmer</td>
<td>Great Falls, MT</td>
<td>Dailey Study Abroad Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ketti Wilhelm</td>
<td>Columbia Falls, MT</td>
<td>Violet M. Boileau Memorial Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Zwang</td>
<td>Libby, MT</td>
<td>Mickey and Jeff Sogard Honors Scholarship</td>
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**2009-10 Research Scholarship Winners and Faculty Mentors**

**Watkins Scholarship**
- Cassandra Abel, Major: Biology, with Prof. Scott Samuels, Division of Biological Sciences, “A Small RNA Thermosensor Regulates RpoS in the Lyme Disease Spirochete”
- Jeremy Alverson, Major: Biochemistry, with Prof. Kent Sugden, Chemistry, “Polymorphisms of the novel DHC glycosylase, NEIL1, and their effects on the repair of oxidative DNA lesions”
- Micah Everson, Major: Classics, with Prof. Matthew Semanoff, Classics, “ ‘Swine from the herd of Epicurus’: The Enlightenment’s Reception of Lucretius and *De Rerum Natura*”
- Kendra Halverson, Major: Criminology, Political Science, with Prof. June Ellestad, Sociology, “Does ‘He’ Imply ‘She’? The Effects of Gendered Language on Implicit Associations”
- Laura Hoon-Hanks, Major: Biology/ Zoology, with Prof. Scott Samuels, Division of Biological Sciences, “The Construction of a Counterselectable Marker and Its Use in *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the Causative Agent of Lyme Disease”
- Laura Jenkins, Major: Biology, with Prof. Scott Mills, Wildlife Biology, “Illegal Fruit Bat Hunting in the Philippines: Understanding Hunting’s Draws and Management’s Flaws”
- Kate Olp, Major: Political Science, with Prof. Thomas Huff, Philosophy, “Critical Theory and Political Liberalism: The Problem of Rights in a Postmodern, Pluralist Society”
- Beth Roskilly, Major: Biology, with Prof. Anna Sala, Biology, “Slow Growth and Increased Longevity in Ponderosa Pine: Is Wood Density Involved in the Increased Lifespan of a Tree?”
- Ann Louise Tezak, Anthropology, with Prof. Kimber McKay, Anthropology, “PROMETRA Outreach in Uganda: Has There Been a Positive Impact on the Perceptions of Traditional Healers?”

**Undergraduate Research Scholarship**
- Lucas Bahnmaier, Major: Athletic Training, with Prof. Valerie Rich, HHP, “Effectiveness of Wii Fitness Video Game System Training Compared to Traditional Training Methods in Improving Proprioception”
- Lindsey Carter, Major: Chemistry, with Prof. Chris Palmer, Chemistry, “Chemical Composition of Wood Smoke Particulate Matter as a Function of Wood Stove Design”
Are You a Graduating Senior?

Graduation forms for Spring 2010 were due on October 1, 2009, but it’s not too late to get them in. You can pick up the official university graduation paperwork from Griz Central in the Lommasson Center. The DHC also requires that you complete some paperwork to verify graduation as a University Scholar. Please stop by the DHC office and pick up the forms, or you can print them from our website at http://www.dhc.umt.edu/current_students/student_forms.cfm. It’s not too early to get your DHC graduation forms in if you are graduating in Summer 2010 or Fall 2010. Please stop by and pick up the paperwork you need.

The Office for Civic Engagement, a program of the Davidson Honors College, is honored to serve as The University of Montana’s primary agent of community activism and civic responsibility.

Volunteer Facts:
Did you know that last year…

- Over 1,600 students were involved in service.
- UM students provided 89,438 hours of service through volunteering and internships to the Missoula community.
- UM students have contributed $987,058 to the Missoula community through service.

Adopt-a-Family/Adopt-a-Veteran

In November, the OCE began its annual effort to serve families living at or below the poverty level in Missoula by collecting gifts for distribution by the Salvation Army and the Poverello Center. Donations may include presents for children, family food and health needs, or gifts for parents, depending on individual family profiles. For the second year in a row, the OCE will also be partnering with the Valor House, transitional housing for veterans, to provide gifts for the residents through the adopt a veteran program. Contact Ashley at 243-5531, if you would like to help.

F.L.A.V.E.

The First-year Leadership And Volunteer Experience (F.L.A.V.E.) was created by The Office for Civic Engagement and the Center for Leadership Development to introduce freshman and transfer students to the Missoula community through serving two of Missoula’s various nonprofits. Students served at either the Poverello Center or Garden City Harvest’s Orchard Homes Gardens. At the Poverello Center, students prepared and served food and organized storage spaces, like the one shown in the photo to the left. The two groups then convened back at the university to discuss their experiences and how effective leadership begins with meaningful service. The fall of 2009 was the first ever F.L.A.V.E., and after a promising first year, will become an annual event hosted by the two departments.

Laurel Ann Curry, Major: Wildlife Biology, with Prof. Lisa Eby, Wildlife Biology, “The Effect of Climate Variation on Growth Rates and Body Condition of Columbia Spotted Frogs (Rana luteiventris) in a High Mountain Ecosystem”

David Elison, Major: Biology, with Prof. Michael DeGrandpre, Chemistry, “An Application of Tracer Monitored Titrations”

Michael Ewald, Major: Resource Conservation, with Prof. David Shively, Geography, “Analysis of Proposed River Setback Requirements in Missoula and Ravalli Counties”

Shannon Hilty, Major: Biology, with Prof. Kerry Foresman, Division of Biological Sciences, “Status of the American Pika (Ochotona princeps) in the Bitterroot Mountains: A Baseline Assessment”

Marietta Meuli, Major: Athletic Training, with Prof. Valerie Rich, HHP, “Effects of Active and Passive Warm-up on Hamstring Flexibility”

Tara Ness, Major: Biology, with Prof. Klara Brinkarova, Chemistry, “Structural Studies of an Atypical Zinc Finger Motif from PRDM4”

David Ring, Majors: Anthropology, Linguistics, Classical Languages, Geography; and Prof. Mizuki Miyashita, Linguistics, “Animacy in Blackfoot Verb Morphology”

Office for Civic Engagement
Davidson Honors College 015
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-4442
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http://www.dhc.umt.edu/oce
At the beginning of each fall and spring semester, the OCE hosts a Volunteer Fair in order to help interested students, UM faculty and staff, and other members of the community find volunteer opportunities in the Missoula area. The fair also helps nonprofit agencies promote their activities and recruit new members in order to meet community-identified needs. On September 8 and 9, over 25 community agencies participated in the Fair; the agencies reported a very large amount of student interest in volunteerism.

The Spring Volunteer Fair will take place on February 2 and 3 from 10:00-2:00 in the UC atrium!

**Fall 2009 Volunteer Fair**

**Campus Corps**

Campus Corps is an AmeriCorps program offered through a cooperative agreement between the Office for Civic Engagement and Montana Campus Compact. This unique program allows students to work part-time in nonprofits or with programs that address community needs.

This year, the Office for Civic Engagement has nine Service Team Campus Corps members serving within the Missoula community. Housed in the OCE, we have a Volunteer and Events Coordinator, America Reads/America Counts Tutor Coordinator, and two full-time Team Leaders. We also have members at our partnering agencies, which include the Watershed Education Network, the Girls Using Their Strengths (GUTS!) program, Garden City Harvest, the UM Psychology Department, and the YMCA.

Campus Corps also has a Service Learning program that has nearly doubled in size since 2006. The scope of volunteer projects has expanded as well: we currently have members working in after-school programs for youth, compiling a dictionary of the Blackfeet language, researching and expanding urban agriculture programs, leading anti-tobacco campaigns and lots more! These members serve 300- or 450-hour terms and receive an education award after the successful completion of their service.

For more information on AmeriCorps programs, contact Colleen at 406-243-5128 or colleen.kane@mso.umt.edu.

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**Find Volunteer Opportunities Online!** Visit our website, [http://www.umt.edu/oc/online_lists/volunteer.htm](http://www.umt.edu/oc/online_lists/volunteer.htm) to search our Volunteer Job Database.

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**Alternative Breaks**

Are you interested in travel and doing community service? Check out the Alternative Break Program! Join a group of dedicated students for a trip to Hollywood, California, where you will work with homeless shelters run by the organization DOOR. Participants will experience the contrast of severe poverty existing in the center of one of the wealthiest communities in the country. Before embarking on this adventure, you will participate in a two-credit Wintersession course from January 6-9, then you get in the van and head to Hollywood January 9-17. Stop by the Office for Civic Engagement to pick up an application, or email Anna at anna.semple@mso.umt.edu today!

**Diversity Beyond Color**

In the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, the Campus Corps team will be asking, “How do you contribute to UM’s diversity?” Students will be asked to tell their stories and get their photos taken in the UC atrium January 26-28 and February 2-3. The photos will be displayed in the UC atrium February 10-12. If you think you contribute to the diversity of UM’s campus in any way, we want to know your story.
Campus Corps members and UM volunteers went into the community to serve for the third annual *Raise Spirits and Help Fright Poverty* event, which falls on Make A Difference Day. This year the event consisted of two projects: a Spooky Meal at the Poverello Center and Trick-or-Donate toiletry drive in the slant streets neighborhood.

The Spooky meal was a ghoulish chili served up with a side of putrid punch, and candy and snacks were to be had by all. Volunteers arrived in costume before the meal was to begin in order to decorate the Poverello Center for the occasion. The decorations and many of the food items were made possible by Missoula’s many grocery stores, which collectively donated $135 to make this event happen.

For Trick-or-Donate, costumed volunteers went door to door gathering toiletry items to be donated to the Salcido Center, the Poverello Center’s drop-in site. The generous donations of the slant streets residents filled an entire station wagon floor to ceiling and will benefit the many clients of the Salcido Center.

Four UM American Humanics (AH) students recently won $4,500 AH NextGeneration scholarships that will allow them to serve 300-hour internships with nonprofit organizations to complete their national certification in nonprofit leadership. The recipients are Sarah Hinkle and Kyle O’Neill, both Communications majors, Whitney Wilson, Management and Accounting major, and Daniel Wirth, Master’s candidate in the Intercultural Youth and Family Development program at UM. The 40-year-old American Humanics program is an innovative course of study that equips college and university students to become skilled professionals and leaders in America’s nonprofit organizations. The University of Montana has been involved with AH since 2002. UM students have received eleven national NextGen scholarships totaling $58,000 since the summer of 2007.

The Office for Civic Engagement and the School of Business Administration jointly received a three-year grant totaling $30,000 from the Sunshine Lady Foundation’s Learning By Giving Program. The grant supports a management course on campus in which students not only study about individual and corporate philanthropy, but also have the opportunity to become philanthropists themselves by managing a grantmaking program to local nonprofits, giving out $10,000 annually.