The Dean's Column

It has been an outstanding spring semester at The University of Montana. With generous support from our alumni and friends, students in the Davidson Honors College have achieved exceptional academic distinction and pursued their highest aspirations.

In April, the DHC organized the eleventh annual UM Conference on Undergraduate Research (http://www.dhc.umt.edu/ugresearch/UMCUR/award_winners.cfm), a full-day event where students of all majors presented their research and creative scholarship. Over 120 students participated in the conference, and eleven students received awards for their outstanding posters and oral presentations. My sincere thanks to the conference coordinators, faculty mentors, judges, peer reviewers, student volunteers, and DHC staff members who made it all possible.

In May, the DHC hosted a reception in the Ephron Student Lounge to honor the 70 students who graduated from the DHC as University Scholars this year. UM Provost Perry Brown offered hearty congratulations to the DHC graduates and their family members. Former Honors Student Association President Kelsey Olson offered a toast to the DHC graduates.

In July, the main office suite of the Davidson Honors College will be fully renovated with new carpeting, paint, and furnishings, thanks to generous funding support from donors Ian and Nancy Davidson. This work will complete a three-year renovation project for the entire DHC Building, with new furniture and a flatscreen TV in the DHC Ephron Student Lounge, new desks and chairs in the DHC classrooms, and a sparkling new finish everywhere. Come visit us to see the new look!

At Honors Convocation, 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2012, in the University Center Theater, we will welcome 200 new DHC freshmen and honor the recipients of the Paul Lauren Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award (http://www.dhc.umt.edu/faculty/forms.cfm). UM President Royce Engstrom and Regents Professor Emeritus Paul Lauren will attend and congratulate the awardees. This award was established in 2011 to recognize UM faculty members who excel in guiding undergraduate students in their research projects in the Davidson Honors College. The seed money for this award was generously donated by UM alumnus Nelson (“Jerry”) Weller, of Alexander Valley, California, who graduated in 1958 with a degree in economics. The award winners for 2012 are:

Daisy Rooks, Assistant Professor of Sociology
Edward Rosenberg, Professor of Chemistry
Scott Samuels, Professor of Biological Sciences
Tobin Shearer, Assistant Professor of History

Congratulations to these outstanding faculty mentors! For further information about this award, or to make a gift to the fund, please contact the Davidson Honors College at dhc@umontana.edu or 406-243-2541.

Everything that we do for the outstanding students in the Davidson Honors College is made possible by the financial support of our alumni and friends. We are truly grateful for your support!

Jim McKusick
This column features some of our students whose excellent work and dedicated service and leadership have been formally acknowledged with national scholarships. A common thread among them is an internal dialogue between various majors in many cases and between academic work and the application of that knowledge to solving problems. These students model the interdisciplinary, engaged approach to college education that earns the attention and support of scholarship donors and foundations dedicated to making the world better by supporting the efforts of the next generation. It is my privilege to help them and others to clarify their passions and then to find ways to explore them and make those passions available for the world’s service.

Zach Brown, a junior in environmental studies with a minor in climate change studies, is a 2012 Truman Scholar and a 2011 and 2012 Udall Scholar. He is the incoming ASUM president for 2012-2013. Brown plans a career in water law with an emphasis on water allocation, land resources conflicts and public diplomacy.

Brown earned these honors for his already exceptional level of leadership, especially on environmental issues. He served as a board member, project coordinator and grant writer for 1,000 New Gardens-Montana. His work on that project led to his being one of three students invited to attend the first Clinton Global Initiative-America meeting in Chicago in June 2011. As an outreach coordinator for the UM Forum for Living with Appropriate Technologies, Brown managed the donation and installation of a 2.8kW solar array. Brown also represented the state of Montana at the Henry Clay Center Student Congress in June 2011. He served during summer 2011 as a watershed restoration intern for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and co-authored a 30-page research report on watershed restoration and climate change.

In addition, Brown co-founded and organized events for the Montana Student Environmental Alliance, which brings students from schools across Montana together for environmental training and planning at regional conferences. Brown also is a project developer for the Revolving Loan fund energy-saving projects and is currently working on developing a Montana University System-wide energy efficiency initiative.

Brown participated in a UM climate change studies study abroad program to Vietnam, and as a freshman served as one of the UM student representatives to the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Matt Dunkle, majoring in wildland restoration and environmental studies, won a Udall Scholarship Honorable Mention in 2011. Matt is very active in several environmental organizations, such as UM Society for Ecological Restoration, Clark Fork Watershed Education Program, and UM Wilderness Association. He has sought out and set up summer internships with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Oklahoma State University that enhance his knowledge and build professional skills.

Brittany Harris, a 2011 graduate in art and political science, is using her Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship to attend the University of Washington to study patent law. In addition to the fascinating combination of fields and the coherence between her academic disciplines and her chosen profession, Brittany took the initiative to develop both Western and Eastern cultural organizations, serving as vice president of the South and Southeast Asian Cultural Organization, president of the political science honor society, and an executive of the Pre-law Student Congress in June 2011. He served during summer 2011 as a watershed restoration intern for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and co-authored a 30-page research report on watershed restoration and climate change.

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Ardina Hasanbasri never put her two major academic interests together until she focused her goals for various scholarship competitions. The service she hopes to provide in international development will be supported by her knowledge and skills as an economics major, but her creative writing prowess and experience (two young adult novels published in Indonesia) serve the same basic impulse: finding a voice for herself and others. Ardina won a summer internship in the Freeman Indonesia Program to work in Bandung for Perkumpulan untuk Penungkatan Usaha Kecil, the Association for Advancement of Small Business. She also won a prestigious invitation to attend the International Student Festival in Trondheim, Norway, to develop networks and solutions for global health problems.

Jess Lareau, who will be a senior in social work, won a Jo Anne Trow Scholarship through the Alpha Lambda Delta Delta Honor Society for her combination of academic achievement and commitment to service. Her summer internship involved working with addiction treatment centers on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana.

David Schaad, UM's 10th recipient of the Honorable Mention award from the Udall Foundation, majors in environmental studies and Spanish with minors in Latin American studies and international development studies. He has completed a semester of study abroad at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso in Valparaíso and Viña del Mar, Chile, where he designed an independent research project to investigate the social ramifications of the effects of climate change on agriculture. He plans to earn a master's degree in environmental education, serve in the Peace Corps in Latin America, and teach environmental studies.
On March 2, Dr. Seuss Day, Laure Pengelly Drake spoke to the teachers, students, and professors at the Foreign Language Day luncheon about the value of studying foreign languages. This is a condensed version of that talk.

In honor of his birthday, the spirit of Dr. Seuss guides my central exhortation for you to study language as a key to a rich, deep life full of adventure. My core argument is that you are a human being. You matter. Other people matter. Learn about them.

The arguments made for education of any kind in any subject often start with job training – how can you make enough money? For the practical among you, who might be unmoved by my peroration later about virtue as its own reward, let me offer a prosaic reason or two: The whole world of work and service can open to you if you study languages. The person in my graduating class who left school with the highest-paying job we knew about and who was able to retire in his mid-50s was a Classics major who had the facility with language, literature, and history so essential in that high-flying world.

When people are feeling really inspired about the purposes of education beyond job training, they suggest the need for educated citizens. The world is so connected by technology and rapid travel and global issues that we all have to be global citizens whether we travel or not. At the Davidson Honors College, we do everything short of requiring both study abroad and foreign language study. Knowing only our own language is akin to pulling down the shades on our homes and pretending we have no neighbors. Nelson Mandela explains why the effort is essential: “If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.” Language is an essential tool in the process of understanding the motivations and experiences of others, solving problems together, and aspiring together.

Education provides personal benefits beyond financial enrichment and improved citizenship: the challenge of the unknown, the discovery of new skills, and the thrill of the difficult. The wonderful serendipity of studying languages is that just as exercise makes our muscles stronger, learning languages makes us smarter in many different ways. Recent brain research explores the capacity-building power of language study and especially bilingualism. My favorite benefit beyond the obvious is that, strange as it seems, your foreign language professor is going to teach you English. I credit foreign language professors with teaching the structure of language in general.

In addition to the achievements that can be measured quantitatively, such as brain function and earning power, the core argument for learning languages is the same qualitative argument I give for studying the humanities and other subjects: learn what it means to be human because you matter. You should have the experience of learning another language for some of the same reasons no one should deprive you of poetry or Shakespeare’s plays or the thrill of contributing to new knowledge through a research project. “The limits of my language means the limits of my world” (Ludwig Wittgenstein). You should study languages because you are capable of appreciating beauty and communicating with strangers about things that matter beyond toilets and train schedules, and you never know the places you’ll go if you have the tools a foreign language can give you.

Why study languages: filthy lucre, stronger global citizenship, fun, challenge, buff brains that last longer and fly higher, and rich lives filled with beauty and amazing adventures. Oh, the places you’ll go. Oh, the people you’ll meet. Oh, the person you’ll be!

We should study languages for many of the same reasons we strive to get a “real” education – to find our way in the world, to study the meaning of being human – beyond the checklists we use to get our degrees: it matters that we are persons in a world of persons.

Dr. Seuss would want it that way.
University of Montana Presidential Leadership Scholarships have been awarded to 42 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 300 qualified applicants. Scholarship recipients become members of UM’s Davidson Honors College and receive a four-year tuition waiver and an additional $5,000 to $7,500 per year.

“We have recruited an impressive group of students for this prestigious scholarship program,” said James McKusick, dean of UM’s Davidson Honors College. “These students will contribute to the entire campus in many and varied ways, and we expect tremendous accomplishments from them.”

Montana’s crop of 2012 Presidential Leadership Scholars are Mariah Forbes, Avon; Mercedes Becker, Belgrade; Justin Stevens, Big Sandy; Michela Jacobson, Billings; Margrethe Boyd, Claire Chandler, Joseph Desch and Caelan Simeone, Bozeman; McKinley Sangwin, Chester; Mikaela Koski, Columbus; Casey Shifflett, Corvallis; Brady Baughman, Frenchtown; Peter Breigenzer, Glasgow; Morgan Clapsaw, Jordan Frotz, Brianna McLean, Cecily Meade, Olivia Moulton and Meg Smith, Great Falls; MaryAnn Beach, Greta Hoffman and Miriam Krainacker, Helena; Jacob Kreamer, Jefferson City; Benjamin Mason, Kalispell; Morgan Luce, Laurel; Sydney Stivers, Lewistown; Michelle Nemetchek, Gilia Patterson, Tessa Richards, Lindsey Trent and Jena White, Missoula; and Mary Mikeson, Stanford.

Eight Presidential Leadership Scholars will come to UM from other states. They are Alexandra Green of Clovis, California; Simon Coffin of Los Gatos, California; Cassidy Grotte of Sacramento, California; Jeanette Murnane and Hope Radford of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Rennie Winkelman of Fort Collins, Colorado; Ian Anderson of Divernon, Illinois; Rebecca Collins of Cornelius, Oregon; Claire Robertson of Boerne, Texas; and Byron Boots of Shelton, Washington.

**2012 Davidson Honors College Alumni Reunion**

We will hold a Davidson Honors College Alumni Reunion on Thursday, August 16, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at Ogren Park Allegiance Field, home of the Missoula Osprey! Refreshments and BBQ served! We will join fellow UM alumni and friends meet on the Blackfoot Party Deck and watch the Osprey baseball game starting at 7:00 p.m. All alumni and friends of the DHC are cordially invited to attend. RSVPs and payments will be handled by the. For details and to register online, visit the UM Alumni Association’s website www.grizalum.com. Event page will be live by July 10. (details to follow soon), but for now -- Please save the date!

**2012-13 Scholarship Winners**

**Buttrey Scholarships**

The Buttrey Family Trust Fund offers scholarships to outstanding juniors who demonstrate both academic excellence and financial need.

- **Tyler Cross**, Major: Creative Writing
- **Julianna Jack**, Major: Political Science
- **Dylan Klapmeier**, Major: Political Science
- **Morgan Lawrence**, Major: English
- **Karla Nettleton**, Major: Political Science and Accounting
- **William Omholt-Montague**, Major: English and Theater
- **Kristine Quint**, Major: Literature and Creative Writing
- **Mona Schwartz**, Major: Political Science
- **Schuyler Watt**, Major: Economics and Business Finance

**Undergraduate Research Scholarships**

Undergraduate Research Scholarships support up to ten student/faculty research teams.

- **Ardina Hasanbasri**, major: Economics, with Ranjan Shrestha, Economics, “Has Unconditional Cash Transfer Improved Well-being in Indonesia?”
- **Kelsey Hom**, major: Ecology and Organismal Biology and English, with Jeffery Good, Division of Biological Sciences, “Rapid Evolution and Sequence Divergence at Tsga8 in Rodents”
- **Emily Kerr**, major: Biology, with Kerry Foresman, Division of Biological Sciences, “Ecology of Squamates in Teton County, Montana”
- **Richard LeCoultre**, major: Biochemistry, with Scott Samuels, Division of Biological Sciences, “The role of Rnase Y in rpoS transcript processing in B. burgdorferi”
- **Kiandra Rajala**, major: Recreation Management and Forestry, with Wayne Freimund, Society and Conservation, “Understanding and Classifying the Motivations of Big Game Poachers in Montana”
- **Dustin Satterfield**, major: Sociology, Inequality and Social Justice, with Daisy Rooks, Sociology, “LGBT Youth and Homelessness”
- **Thomas Spallino**, major: Human Biology, with Mike Minnick, Division of Biological Sciences, “6S sRNA regulating gene expression in Coxiella burnetii”

**Watkins Scholarship**

The Watkins Scholarship Program offers research awards to students who are seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences or whose faculty mentor is in the College of Arts and Sciences.

- **Peter Burns**, major: Physics and Math, faculty mentor: Andrew Ware,
Physics, “Theoretical plasmas physics in regard to W7-X: A fusion research project”

Geoffrey Elliot, major: English Literature and Philosophy, faculty mentor: John Glendening, English, “The Concept of Irony and Oscar Wilde”


Emerald LaFortune, major: Environmental Studies, faculty mentor: Jesse Munro, Political Science, “Missoula Household Gardening: A Case Study for the Potential Incorporation of 1,000 New Gardens as a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit”


Dailey Study Abroad Scholarships
These scholarships provide support for a full-year study abroad program in a country where English is not commonly spoken.

Grace Yon
Major: Creative Writing and Japanese
Country of travel: Japan

Sarah Browder
Major: Spanish and Nursing
Country of travel: Bolivia

Voile M. Boileau Memorial Study Abroad Scholarship
These scholarships offer funding to students who intend to participate in a study abroad program.

Jenna Lyons
Major: English
Country of travel: Thailand

David Schaad
Major: Environmental Studies
Country of travel: Chile

Additional Honors Scholarships
Natalie Black
Andrew and Wendy Davidson Scholarship

University Scholar Candidates

Fall 2011
Kensey Baker
Ryan Graebner
Hannah Kanengieter
Alexa Lawson
Caitlin McVay
Flora Sperberg
Alison Stanbery
Kate Sullivan
Sophia Tanberg
Brittany Wolf

Emily Creasia
Victoria de Onis
Brianna DeWitt
Victoria Edwards
Kelsey Fanning
Erika Foster
Emily Foster
Jayme Fraser
Kayla Friedley
Wesley Furlong
Michelle Gibson
William Glenn
Matthew Goldes
Erika Grantier
Hannah Grover
Caitlin Herold
Gabriel Heyl
Kate Hildner
Melissa Jenkins
Jessica Johnston
Saidee Jenkins
Emily Martens
Tysen Timmer

Johnathan Bush
Wayne and Sallie Linnell Scholarship

Ally Guldborg
Weeks-Mattelin Legacy Scholarship

Mariah Meyer
Carl and Bella Nelson and Elsworth and Mabel Nelson Scholarship

Angella Molvig
John F. Ramsbacher Scholarship

Lisa Nickison
Patrick R. and Kitte Robins Scholarship

Sydney Nordhagen
Don Stanaway Family Scholarship

Hillary Secrist
Robert Rogan Burchenal Scholarship

Spencer Sheehan
Andrea Sliter Goudge Honors Scholarship

Ellen Whittle
Mickey and Jeff Sogard Honors Scholarship

Spring 2012
Tyler Anfinson
Lindsey Appell
Shelby Baldridge
Yuanyuan Bao
Daniel Barthelmeh
Nicole Baughn
Nate Bender
Kayla Blackman
Hayley Botnen
Mary Bruen
Erin Burt
Casey Cable
Tess Carlson
Lauren Christian
Christopher Cordingley

Summer 2012
Domnita-Valeria Rusnac

Fall 2012
Hannah Anderson
Derek Arnold
Robin Gustafson
Emily Kerr
Alyssa Komac
Kirstie Lawson
Alex Schwier
Service Saturdays are a longstanding program offered by the Office for Civic Engagement (OCE). These one-time projects seek to help non-profits with projects and, in turn, introduce students to the Missoula community. Throughout the academic year, the OCE has provided over 100 UM volunteers to 12 non-profits around Missoula.

Service Saturday projects range from aiding an organization with an event, like the Fall Harvest Festival, to providing volunteers for the Mountain Home Renovation Project. Students find Service Saturdays appealing because it “allows people to connect with so many organizations and, we hope, come back to permanently volunteer in the future,” says Service Saturday frequenter Gloria Roe. Service Saturdays are typically organized by Campus Corps Leader, Shanna Ungate, but recently students have been eager to coordinate their own Service Saturdays.

“It is great to have students taking the initiative to perform service and coordinate their own Service Saturdays. They gain valuable leadership experience in doing so and learn how to communicate with non-profits and other volunteers as well,” says Ungate.

If you are interested in learning more about these Service Saturdays or are interested in receiving monthly email updates about upcoming Service Saturdays, please email Service.Saturday@mso.umt.edu to be added to our distribution list. We welcome UM students, faculty, staff, and alumni to participate in Service Saturdays.

Find Volunteer Opportunities Online! Visit our website, http://www.dhc.umt.edu/oce/projects.html to search our volunteer projects.

We’re also on Facebook! To stay updated on our events and special projects, search for “UM Office for Civic Engagement.”

Honors Award and Newman Award

The 2012 Newman Civic Fellows Award honors inspiring college-student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country. Maureen Karlin, a UM junior studying education, received the award for her work coordinating the America Reads America Counts K-12 tutoring program in Missoula.

Karlin develops relationships with area elementary schools and works with local principals and teachers to identify classrooms and students with the highest needs. Once identified, Karlin works to recruit, screen, train, place, and support tutors throughout their volunteer experience. In addition to coordinating tutors, Karlin provides direct service as a tutor in elementary classrooms herself.

UM has a long tradition of community service and civic engagement. According to Andrea Vernon, director of UM’s Office for Civic Engagement, there are many examples of long-standing partnerships between community-based organizations and university staff, faculty and students.

“Our community engagement programs help to enliven curriculum and make learning more meaningful for students and the community," Vernon said. "Service is embedded in the University’s mission statement, and each year thousands of students engage in community service work that benefits their learning and meets some of the critical needs facing our community related to poverty, the environment, and education."

Last year, 2,068 UM students volunteered 169,190 hours of service to the local community. The Independent Sector, a leadership forum for charities, foundations and corporate giving programs, has determined the value of a volunteer hour by state, and Montana’s hourly rate is $14.89. Using that hourly rate as a guideline, the volunteer hours by UM students brought an economic impact to the Missoula community of nearly $2.5 million.
During the 2011-2012 winter break, a group of UM students volunteered in Hollywood, California, with the DOOR program (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection). The trip, combined with three days of mandatory seminars, introduced students to non-profits working to relieve hunger and homelessness in the Hollywood area.

Door provides opportunities for service learning and leadership development within an urban context. The Hollywood branch of DOOR focuses on homelessness, poverty relief, hunger, education achievement gaps, and children's advocacy. Once in Hollywood, students are assigned to different work sites each day. Students may work in places such as soup kitchens, children's organizations, and Habitat for Humanity projects. Volunteer placements are assigned based on what the city needs most at the time of the trip. There is also free time for students to explore the more glamorous side of Hollywood. This Alternative Break trip exposes UM students to the striking contrasts that exist between poverty and prosperity.

Alternative Breaks is a program based out of the Office for Civic Engagement that allows students to learn through volunteerism, work in a group of peers, and become vitally connected with a new and different community. During Spring Break, students traveled to Moab, Utah, in order to work with Plateau Restoration INC. In Moab, student volunteers worked to beautify and restore the park by vegetating select areas, maintaining trails, conducting research and combating erosion on the plateaus. Alternative Breaks are hosted during Winter and Spring Break each year. We welcome suggestions for our host sites during break.

If you are interested in learning more about Alternative Breaks and how to become involved, please contact the OCE at 243-5531 or email us at oce@mso.umt.edu.