Where Confidence Soars

Drone’s eyeview of Gallagher Business Building by John Warner Photography
YES, YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN.

Seeds of Success
Three fascinating stories

Big Data Certificate
Students receive certificate in Big Data

Giving Back
Alumni generosity benefits students
In this issue

5 ..... Advisory Board Listings
7 ..... From the Dean
11 ..... Connecting Students
21 ..... Graduate Programs
23 ..... Connecting to Industry Expertise
25 ..... Of Note: Students
29 ..... Of Note: Faculty & Staff
35 ..... Of Note: Development
37 ..... Of Note: Alumni
43 ..... Where Are They Now?
49 ..... Partners for Excellence

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ON THE COVER:
Jessica Read, Management ’15 and her horse Dynamite

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Each year, I look forward to working with our team in assembling the annual Dean’s Report. I am always astounded when I review the number and quality of projects, programs and activities that have occurred in the past year. A few of these are highlighted in the 2014-2015 Dean’s Report.

**Student Success.** Although we have multiple goals in the School of Business at any one time, our primary mission is assuring student success. We have featured a few success stories of current students, as well as shared with you the stories of a few of our graduates. I hope you’ll enjoy reading about these present and former students as much as I have.

**Business Minor.** Beginning this fall, the School of Business will offer a minor in business to all students on the University of Montana campus. This is truly a milestone in the history of the University and of the Business School. As we see ourselves developing highly interdisciplinary programs within the business school, we believe it is our responsibility to answer the demand for business education by making it possible for students across campus to acquire a minor in business.

**New Facility.** Another milestone for both the School of Business and the University of Montana is the addition of a new facility. Approximately 20 years ago we moved in to the William and Rosemary Gallagher Business Building which, to this day, is still frequently referred to as the “new business building.” When you visit campus this summer or next fall, you will see the Gallagher building’s next door neighbor. Just west of the Gallagher Building is the Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building for Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Executive Education. We believe this new building will help the business school maintain its role as the premier provider of business education in the state of Montana.

Along with the contributions of William and Rosemary Gallagher, and Harold and Priscilla Gilkey, we would like to thank each one of you for the support you have given to the business school over the years. I know I speak for the students, the staff and the faculty in thanking you for helping us establish and maintain our leadership role in business education. Your involvement enables us to provide state of the art facilities and world class faculty for our students, helping us ensure they have every possible opportunity for success.

Larry Gianchetta
The paths we take in life are often unexpected, sometimes momentarily obscured, and often end up being far different from the ones we started on. The paths to success, well, those can be even more unpredictable and elusive.

For hundreds of students each year, their path is revealed in the halls of the University of Montana School of Business Administration. And in many cases, that path eventually winds its way back to the place where their seeds of success were sown. The following are a few stories of people finding their way in Western Montana, growing right where they were planted.

When Jessica Read moved to Missoula she wasn’t just looking for a place for herself to live; she needed a home for Badger, Harley, and Dynamite. They’d need a place to sleep, room to stretch their legs and, of course, plenty of hay. So when Read found a place to live up Miller Creek, she started knocking on doors in an attempt to find a willing landlord nearby for her horses.

“I ended up finding someone who loves horses but can’t have them anymore, so it’s great for both of us,” she said.

Read’s own search for an academic home was equally successful in Missoula, where she found the perfect outlet for her highly motivated approach to life at the School of Business Administration.

At 22, Read took a slightly unorthodox path from her childhood home in Plains to UM, first enrolling at Montana State University in Bozeman before a fortuitous turn of events led to a scholarship offer to join UM’s rodeo team. She first enrolled at Missoula College to earn an Associate of Arts Degree. From there, she came to UM and quickly discovered a passion for business.

Following her expected graduation in December, Read is ready to tie together her love of horses, an entrepreneurial spirit and a strong desire to give back to the many folks who have helped her along the way.

“For me, my work ethic is grounded in my Montana roots,” she said. “People from Montana have a deep sense of what work is. It’s a way of life.”
Walk into downtown Missoula’s incredibly popular Five on Black restaurant and you’ll find a casual interior, delicious Brazilian-inspired food and the quick service expected from fast-casual staples like Chipotle and Qdoba. For Tom Snyder, a native Missoulian and 2011 graduate of the School of Business Administration, the journey to a successful restaurant in his hometown has been anything but fast and casual.

Snyder began crafting a business plan for an eatery as a senior project for the Davidson Honors College and as an entry into SoBA’s annual business plan competition.

With Dr. (Tony) Crawford as my advisor, I was able to reach out to many people in the community to help me craft what would become Five on Black,” Snyder said. “The help and support I received during my time in school, including writing the plan, gave me the confidence and ability to launch a business. There are no better advisors than those who work at UM.”

And where better to launch an entrepreneurial career than in the community where Snyder already had deep roots?

“Missoula is something special. The community is supportive of new ideas and entrepreneurs,” he said. “Missoula is a place I love, and through this business I am able to give back to the community.”

Snyder’s success has been swift — he’s planning to open a second Five on Black location across town in the summer of 2015 — and that couldn’t have happened without plenty of hard work and the launch pad he found at UM.

“My first year of college I tossed around a lot of different ideas of what I wanted in my future from medicine to being a history professor,” Snyder recalled. “I decided on a finance degree because I knew I wanted to stay in Missoula and business was a degree that was relevant and flexible. I can’t say enough about the quality of the professors at the School of Business.”
Craig Holtet and Ron Ramsbacher are busy guys. As owners of Missoula’s Orange Street Food Farm, they just made one heck of an impulse buy: two more grocery stores that suddenly came up for sale because of a merger of two national chains.

“There just aren’t many opportunity to purchase grocery stores,” Holtet said. “A lot of things in life come down to luck and timing. Often when people want to start a business, they have the money but not the knowhow, or the other way around. We’re really fortunate to be in the position to make everything come together with this acquisition.”

Holtet and Ramsbacher may have timing in their favor, first purchasing the Food Farm in 2014 and now the two Missoula Fresh Market locations — formerly the town’s Safeway stores — but the longtime friends who met during their years at the University of Montana certainly have the knowhow. Ramsbacher brings a career in finance and accounting to the company and Holtet has experience in distribution, retail and grocery management.

“Our new office at Missoula Fresh Market is the same office where I first interviewed for the Safeway job,” Holtet recalled about a store management job he took in Colorado. “About a year into that, I called Ron and said ‘Hey man, let’s look for something to do.’ He called a year later when Orange Street Food Farm came up for sale.”

Soon Holtet was back in Missoula and, not long after, grocery titans Albertsons and Safeway announced a merger, requiring some locations to be divested, including Missoula’s Safeways. Now the goals for the pair are to infuse the newly branded stores with local personality and Montana-made products, and manage a massively expanded operation less than a year and a half after they took the reins of their first store.

“Over the 20 years, how many grocery stores have sold in Missoula? It’s all about timing and knowing the right people; people you trust, he said. “At some point in business, decisions are built on somebody’s word.” Of course it helps that Holtet and Ramsbacher have the confidence to assume the risk and the skills necessary to reap the rewards.
Running a ranch with vast landscapes and numerous livestock can be complicated, but SoBA student Walker Milhoan has a technology that he thinks will make ranching more sustainable and profitable. And his business venture is promising enough that he was selected as a finalist at Blackstone LaunchPad’s Demo Day in New York City last fall.

Milhoan’s business venture, Ranchlogs, was one of 20 selected to attend the event where students competed to win prizes ranging from $10,000 to $25,000 to be used to further their business development. Paul Gladen, UM’s Blackstone LaunchPad director, nominated Milhoan to attend the competition, where he progressed to the final rounds with the top six. The LaunchPad, an experiential campus program designed to introduce entrepreneurship as a viable career path, has advised more than 100 ventures, including Ranchlogs. Ranchlogs is an interactive, Web-based software platform that serves as a livestock inventory and range management tool that can be used to create custom ranch maps, track key performance indicators, and perform analysis within any ranching operation. While contemplating a technological solution that would digitize ranch data, Milhoan found his way to the University of Montana School of Business Administration, where he discussed his ideas with Professor Cameron Lawrence.

The professor inspired him to enroll in the business school’s Management Information Systems program to find out if he could come up with a solution. Professor Lawrence provided him with some direction, and then Milhoan discovered UM’s Blackstone LaunchPad, which would help him further develop his ideas. The experience at the New York City competition gave Milhoan the boost to further develop his venture. “It opened up a lot of doors and a lot of thinking,” said Milhoan.
Chad Miller, MBA '17

Fall Start up Pitch Competition Winner

University of Montana MBA student Chad Miller took home the top prize in SoBA’s Fall Startup Pitch Competition.

Miller won the $1,500 overall prize for his presentation on Purus, an engineering support operations management firm, which bridges the technology and marketing gaps between oil and gas service companies and their customers.

Chad Miller, MBA ’17
SoBA Students Make the Sale

SoBA students recently were given the unique opportunity to practice their sales skills by participating in the first Northwestern Mutual Scholarship Sales Competition at UM.

The competition, held in two rounds on Sept. 30 and Oct. 17 in the Gallagher Business Building, featured students representing a fictitious company selling credit card readers to a regional retailer.

Michael Butler, director of development for Northwestern Mutual in Montana, represented the retailer. In Round 1, students interviewed him to hear his perspective as a buyer, learn more about his company’s needs and establish rapport.

During Round 2, students had 15 to 20 minutes to pitch the fictional product to Butler. The product is based on Square readers, one that many businesses use to process credit card payments. Students were evaluated on how well they described its advantages and ways it would benefit his business. Organizers recorded both rounds, and a nine-judge panel of UM faculty members and representatives from local businesses determined the first-, second- and third-place finishers.

“We felt like it was a fun way for us to be involved on campus with both the faculty and the students in a way that’s a little bit different,” Butler said. “And it’s also a way for students to work on sales skills.”

Finance Grad Finishes Prestigious CitiBank Internship in London

SoBA finance graduate Marissa Olson (’13) returned to the U.S. last August after gaining experience to launch her banking career while living, working and learning in London.

Olson applied for a Citibank internship as SoBA student, with the help from UM Internship Services counselor Cheryl Minnick. She landed a credit analyst and loan underwriter internship at Citi Private Bank in London and earned a certificate in international business from the Mountbatten Institute while she was overseas.

Olson began college as a management major but found her true calling when she took a required business finance class from Professor Tim Manuel. Olson credits much of her success at UM to Professors Manuel, Tony Crawford and Bruce Costa, along with the SoBA Career Development program.

Olson offers the following advice to SoBA students: “Take advantage of every opportunity the University provides. Make sure to go to all of the networking events. Most jobs are obtained through networking and many jobs never even make it to job websites. They are filled through networking connections.”
Management Intern works closely with Washington Policymakers

Management major Calen King interned in Washington, D.C., this past summer with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance (ODAPC).

ODAPC is responsible for the largest regulated workplace testing program in the world. Approximately 6 million professionals in the U.S. are covered by ODAPC’s regulations, including airline pilots, flight attendants, aviation maintenance personnel, truck drivers, school bus and transit bus drivers, railroad engineers, pipeline operators and others. ODAPC works closely with the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Strategy, the Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

With ODAPC Acting Director Patrice Kelly serving as his mentor, King’s duties included thoroughly learning the regulations, providing guidance to the public regarding drug and alcohol testing regulations and participating in policy meetings with federal government managers and attorneys. King also obtained security clearance before he left Missoula so he could work with confidential documents to help create an electronic collection for ODAPC.

King earned academic credit for his internship thanks to a scholarship sponsored by the advisory board of SoBA’s Management and Marketing Department.

King feels fortunate he assisted in an important federal transportation safety program in Washington, D.C., if even for a short time.

SoBA Intern Hones Marketing Analytics Skills

Senior marketing major Katherine Vincent spent last summer in Portland interning with R2C Group, a full-service direct response advertising agency founded by SoBA alumnus Tim O’Leary and his wife, Michelle Cardinal. In her position as a client strategy intern, Vincent used her marketing analytics and math courses to perform data analysis on client media spots.

Vincent’s marketing analytics background wasn’t the only thing that impressed the R2C recruiter; the fact that she held a leadership role in the UM chapter of the American Marketing Association helped her score the position. Vincent was one of seven interns from around the country. If she didn’t have to return to UM to finish her degree, R2C would have asked her to stay on as a full-time employee. The company did hire another SoBA alumnus, however.

One of Vincent’s favorite things about the internship was the accessibility of everyone in the company. While at R2C, Vincent and the other interns had the opportunity to go to lunch with Cardinal and Jane Crisan, COO, to receive career advice. R2C is currently recruiting for summer 2015 interns, and Vincent hopes another SoBA student enjoys the opportunity she had last summer.
SoBA Hosts Technology Opportunity Night

The SoBA Career Development program hosted its annual Technology Opportunity Night in March, giving students the opportunity to network with technology industry companies planning to hire interns and full-time employees. Students also were able to discuss careers face-to-face with representatives from local and national organizations. Participating companies benefitted from the event as well. When Career Development sent invitations to employers, Kevin McManus, vice president of ikaw Solutions, replied, “You can count us in! We met one of our best employees last year at this event.”

The goal of the Career Development program is to foster relationships between business professionals and business students. Technology Opportunity Night was a success because of great partnerships with employers, the Montana Information Systems Association student group, and faculty and staff from the School of Business Administration. The program also hosted the Career Networking Reception for marketing and management majors in March, with more than ten companies attending.

In February, 13 students from the Entertainment Management Program (UMEM) traveled to Nashville, Tennessee to participate in the Pollstar and Production Live Conference. This annual event is a conference specifically for individuals in the entertainment and music industries. Students attended panels and volunteered in every aspect of the event held at the convention center. UMEM student Davis Jones said, “This conference gave us invaluable experience working a large event and networking with entertainment industry professionals. There are so many different opportunities to explore in the entertainment field. This was the perfect place to do it.”
Networking Event Connects Business Students with Deloitte, KPMG, Moss Adams, and PwC

More than 100 students in the School of Business Administration put their networking skills to work during the annual Meet the Firms event in September.

With business cards in hand, many of the accounting, finance, management information systems and MBA students who attended Meet the Firms submitted their applications for internships and full-time positions.

Seventeen representatives from Deloitte, KPMG, Moss Adams and PricewaterhouseCoopers – many of them UM alumni – discussed careers and the recruiting process with students. Current UM students who interned last summer and received full-time positions also shared their experiences.

With more employers wanting to get to know candidates before the formal job interview, networking events have become a crucial part of the recruiting process. SoBA offers students multiple opportunities throughout the semester to meet with employers one-on-one, explore career options, and develop relationships before they apply for jobs and internships. The program also provides workshops that encourage lifelong career skills.

SoBA Career Development Networking Events

Throughout the academic year, SoBA’s Career Development program hosted the following networking events, custom-tailored for business majors. The mission of the Career Development program is to give SoBA students the best possible competitive advantage in the business world. Thank you to all of our partners who participated in 2014-2015!

•   Meet the Firms: National firms recruited and had contact with more than 100 accounting and MIS students.
•   Montana Society for CPA Opportunity Night – Montana firms/government organizations met with more than 50 students.
•   Three Networking Receptions for companies/government organizations to recruit the following majors: Marketing & Management, Accounting & Finance, and MIS. More than 120 students attended these three events.
•   Eleven hours of presentations from companies to student groups at SoBA. Clubs include: Beta Alpha Psi, Montana Information Systems Association, UM Marketing Club and Finance Club.
BUSINESS STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD IN ROMANIA
In July graduate students in the MBA and MAcct programs studied in Sibiu, a medieval town in the middle of Transylvania. With the help of the University Lucian Blaga in Sibiu, they completed mini internships with local subsidiaries of multinational companies and learned about the realities of engaging in international business in one of the most rapidly developing economies in the European Union. Students also visited medieval castles, sampled the local cuisine renowned for its cheese and wine, and learned about ancient cultures.

GERMANY AND ITALY
In early summer SoBA undergraduate and graduate students studied in Germany and Italy. These unique, short-term, intensive-study courses in Western Europe allowed Montana students the opportunity to learn about international business in a distinctive foreign setting while experiencing the magic of immersion in a foreign culture. UM students spent mornings in the classroom with local students learning about international business and afternoons visiting local businesses and cultural destinations.

Music Is His Passion – One Day It Will Be His Business
Forrest Messerman, Sonic Arts, ‘18
NEW ZEALAND
An intensive 25-day study abroad program in New Zealand taught by Barb Reider examined international business with a special focus on business sustainability practices and business issues in New Zealand and Sydney, Australia.

New Zealand’s isolation as an island nation has led to the development of a unique natural heritage. The plants and animals there are unknown elsewhere in the world. Students learned about the history, biogeography, ecological diversity and related social, business and cultural contexts of New Zealand.

The students also traveled to Sydney, a city engaged in international trade and providing a wonderful backdrop to delve into issues related to business sustainability and aboriginal land.

The course included supporting lectures from faculty at Lincoln University and University of Canterbury (Christchurch, New Zealand), plus local field experts from leading organizations in New Zealand and Sydney.

Forrest Messerman is passionate about music. From a young age he has loved everything about it. He plays five instruments, hosts an occasional radio show and enjoys mixing music. When he came to UM in the fall of 2014, it was an easy decision to major in sonic arts. Messerman’s dream is to run his own recording studio one day, so he also worked a minor in business into his four-year academic plan. “I know I need a business background as well as music in order to succeed in this industry,” Messerman said. The School of Business Administration will begin offering a business minor in fall 2015, just in time for Messerman and many other UM students who want to turn their passion into their business.
SoBA Finance Students Place Second in Regional CFA Research Institute Challenge

In February, a team of SoBA finance students took second place at the 2014-15 Spokane Regional of the CFA Institute Research Challenge. It marked the second year in a row that the UM team took second in the competition. The team prepared and presented a report initiating investment guidance on the publicly traded energy company Avista Corp. They initiated a “hold” on Avista Corp., highlighting the company’s strong industry performance and high dividend yield but also citing the risk of rising interest rates as a mitigating factor that lead to a hold recommendation. UM team members were Ryan Hover, Kelsey Roland, Parker Olinger and Joseph Crowley. Their industry mentor was Jon Putnam of the Montana Board of Investments. Faculty mentor was Professor Tony Crawford.

AIBL Students Bring Home 1st Place in Nationals

The University of Montana AIBL Chapter is made up of eight members from various majors. Throughout the school year the chapter participated in many community service and volunteer activities, in addition to fundraising for a National Conference. This year the group presented a business plan based around health and wellness at the National AIBL conference in Albuquerque, NM. UM’s group placed 1st in the Business Plan Competition and 1st in the Chapter of the Year Competition.
Beta Alpha Psi Earns International Superior Chapter Status for 12th Consecutive Year

This past fall, the School of Business Administration’s Delta Kappa Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi received international recognition as a Superior Chapter for the 12th consecutive school year by the National Offices of Beta Alpha Psi. Beta Alpha Psi is the International Honor Organization for Financial Information Professionals. Student members must have declared or intend to major in accounting, finance or management information systems.

Recognition as a Superior Chapter is a significant accomplishment, indicating UM’s student members have far exceeded the baseline requirements of Beta Alpha Psi in the areas of academics, professionalism and leadership. Among other activities, UM’s members volunteer at the Poverello Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters and help tutor students in sophomore-level accounting courses.

AMA International Conference Participation

Ten members of UM’s collegiate chapter of the American Marketing Association traveled to New Orleans in March for the annual International Collegiate Conference. The conference brings together approximately 2,000 members from across the country to share best practices, test their marketing skills and network with peers and employers. A team of six seniors competed in the SABRE Business Simulation Competition, placing fourth just behind Johns Hopkins University. Two students competed in the Marketing Strategy Competition, placing in the top 15 percent. The students also participated in workshops and attended lectures by prominent marketers. “It’s great to go to a conference with thousands of students from schools of different sizes and be one of the standout chapters,” said Meghan Keeley, UM-AMA president. “The marketing department at UM is definitely on the cutting edge.”
"The MAcct Program provided me with an expansive view of accounting. In addition to the classroom education, the MAcct Program develops skills needed for a successful career in accounting."

— Alaina Abbott ’15
"The MBA program at the University of Montana has been a tremendously valuable experience. It has given me the tools and ability to take my career to the next level."

– Gabriel Millar ’15
Thomas Schievelbein, chairman, president and chief executive officer of The Brink’s Company, delivered the fall semester Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Executive Lecture on Oct. 23 at the University of Montana.

Schievelbein oversees operations at Brink’s, which provides security services to banks, retailers and governments around the world, and has been a leader in the industry for more than 150 years. The company employs 65,000 people in more than 40 countries.

Schievelbein has been the CEO of Brink’s since 2012 and a member of its board of directors since 2009. Before joining Brink’s, Schievelbein served as president of Northrop Grumman Newport News and as a member of the Northrop Grumman Corporate Policy Council from 2001 to 2004. He was chief operating officer of Newport News Shipbuilding Inc. from 1995 to 2001 and was responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines.

Schievelbein received his bachelor’s degree in marine engineering from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and his master’s degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Virginia. He has served on the Secretary of the Navy’s Advisory Panel, as well as the board of directors for the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, where he led the subcommittee for ethics, character development and leadership.

Schievelbein also is a director of Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc. and a director of New York Life Insurance Company. He is a member of the Business Roundtable, an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies. He is a founding member and past chair of the Virginia Career Education Foundation.

The Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Executive Lecture Series is designed to provide students, faculty and the community with a forum whereby they have direct access to business leaders. Lecturers address issues across marketing, management, finance, ethics and leadership. In addition to leading classroom lectures and discussion, speakers present a lecture at a public forum on a topic of their choice and are invited to meet with graduate students and campus and community leaders. Participating executives enjoy dynamic conversation and the exchange of ideas with our eager students.

*The School of Business Administration welcomes and encourages executives to share their stories of challenges and success with students, faculty and the community.*
dusty expertise

Adam Ragsdale, Big Sky Society for Human Resource Management • Adrian Irish, University of Montana • Alan Adams, Patagonia • Andrew Hull, Elixir • Andy Larson, First Security Bank • AnnMarie Rieman, Community Medical Center • Arnie Sherman, Global Development Holdings • Ben DeMarois, PricewaterhouseCoopers • Ben Goodman, FAST Enterprises • Ben Sokoloski, Market on Front • Bjorn Naboynetz, Big Sky Brewing • Bob Minto, ALPS • Bob Tabke, TDA Group • Brad Goodridge, Magic City Urban Festival • Billings • Brian Knaff, Talent Buyers Network • Brian Morgan, Adventure Life • Carl Brien, NBC Montana • Carol Thuerbach, Chair 2 Holdings LLLP • Charlie Beaton, Big Dipper • Chris Atkien, Borondi Group; Muzevie; MBA Prep School • Chris Morin, Wells Fargo • Christina Henderson, Montana High Tech Alliance • CJ Haney, PricewaterhouseCoopers • Clyde Neu, Epic Management • Connie Kulbeck, Associated Employers of Montana and Job Jupiter.com • Dale Gillespie, Invest, Inc. • Dan Bateman, Pasta Montana • Danny Spitzer, Bresc Events Center • Dave Enger, Pacific Coast Banking School • Dave Harritt, American Expedition Vehicles • Dave Martin, Blackfoot Telecommunications • Dave Olson, First Interstate Bank • Dave Pyron, KEO Services • David Bell, ALPS • Dawn McGee, Good Works Ventures • Deborah Doyle McWinney, retired, Citi Group • Deborah Gass, Missoula Job Service • Derek Baggerly, ESIS • Deviant Ollam, The CORE Group • Diana Hammer, US EPA Region 8 Montana Office • Diane Smith, American Rural • Don Bennett, Freedom Bank • Dr. Judy Mohr, Will & Emery • Ed Stalling, MartizCX • Ed Wetherbee, Old Sawmill District • Elizabeth Lathrop, OneLogin, Inc. • Elizabeth Risler-Pratt, Nutritional Laboratories • Eric Fulton, Treasure State Internet • Eric Manegold, Zonar Systems • Eric Sprunk, Nike, Inc. • Erin O’Connell, ISITE Design • Fran Albrecht, Providence Montana Health Foundation and Member of Montana University System Board of Regents • Greg Pierson, Glacier Bancorp • Holly Biehl, Five Valleys Land Trust • J. Lee Cook, Seattle Seahawks & Sounders • Jake Taylor, FAST Enterprises • James Grunke, Missoula Economic Partnership • James Salisbury, Treasure State Bank • Jason Emery, Missoula County • Jason Erickson, Treasure State Bank • Jason Kolberg, Missoula Federal Credit Union • Jay Combs, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis • Jeff Harriott, Consumer Direct Management Solutions • Jeff Kicklighter, Jam Productions • Jeff Runkel, Glacier Bancorp • Jenn Ewan, Missoula Economic Partnership • Jennifer Price, Moss Adams • Jeremy Brown, Dorsey & Whitney • Jerry Buck, Deloitte • Jesse Lohse, Bear Paw Lumber • Jessica Grennan, Political Affairs and Advocacy of Compassion and Choices • Jessica Pierce, Wedge Co-op, Inc. • Jim Downey, MetroTix • Jim Malito, Broken Bow Records • Jim Zimmerman, Selway Armoury • Joel Henry, Agile Data Solutions • John Giuliani, Montana Timber Products • Jon Putnam, Montana Board of Investments • Jorge Watson, Advanced Technology Group • Josh Talley, Vector Management • Joshua Pearson, Advanced Technology Group • Karen Sprenger, LMG Security • Kari Dilloo, Clarisonic • Katherine Vincent, Monter Consulting • Katrina Galas, Sportsperson • Keith Miller, William Morris Endeavor • Kelly Gregory, Montana Security and Communications • Kemble Fletcher, Optimum Media Direction • Ken Krueger, K Square, Inc. • Ken Thuerbach, Chair 2 Holdings LLLP • Kevin Darrow, Eaton Vance • Kevin Good, PricewaterhouseCoopers • Kristen Mickey, Advanced Technology Group • Kym Black, Wells Fargo • Kyong Kapalczynski, McDonald’s • Les Dye, Quantpost • Lisl Newton, KPMG • Lyndee Kemp, Hall & Partners • Lynne Pizzini, State of Montana • Mark Clapp, UM Foundation Board • Marc Dusset, Axiom IT Solutions • Marianna Brunner, Insight Management • Mark Buckley, Staples, Inc. • Mark Burnham, Hawthorn Retirement Group, LLC / OZ Cap LLC • Mark Demko, ArtsQuest • Mark McMillan, Access Lock & Security • Mary Gail Sullivan, Northwestern Energy • Mary Oestreich, retired, ALPS • Matt Ellis, Missoula Osprey Baseball Organization • Matt Gorecki, Treasure State Internet • Matt Roberge, SLC Bookkeeping • Matthew Olson, MO3 Consulting, LLC • Matthew Roberts, Garlington, Lohn & Robinson • Melissa Wilson, UM Foundation • Michael FitzGerald, Submittable • Michelle Huie, VIM & VIGR • Stylish Compression Socks • Mickey Ogg, Consumer Direct • Mike Combo, Anderson ZurMuehlen • Mike McGinley, CitizenNet • Mike Steinberg, Roxy Theatre/International Wildlife Film Festival • Mike Wright, Farmers State Bank • Mindy Carver, PayneWest Insurance • Molly Bradford, GatherBoard • Nadia White, UM School of Journalism • Nick Checotah, Top Hat Lounge • Nick Parish, Americas Contagious • Noah Brier, Percolate • Paige Judnich, DirecTV • Paige Williams, The Audience Awards • Patrick Marzullo, Wieden + Kennedy • Paul Gladen, Blackstone LaunchPad, UM • Pri Fernando, US Bank • Rachael Wierson, Blackfoot Telecommunications • Rachel Anderson, Missoula Economic Partnership • Ray Kordupleski, Customer Value Management, Inc. • Renee King, PayneWest Insurance • Robert Farmer, Missoula Federal Credit Union • Roberta Smith, Missoula Federal Credit Union • Ron Baldwin, State of Montana • Ryan Screnlar, Glacier Bancorp • Sara Leigh Medley, PricewaterhouseCoopers • Scott Burke, First Security Bank • Shari Rice, Pollstar • Stefanie Strack, Nike (Skateboarding and Surf Brand), Hurley • Steven Hastings, Anglepoint • Tim Wolksy, Washington Corp. • Tim Wynne, Surgical Principals • Tom Kerr, S.G. Long & Co. • Tom Schievelbein, The Brink’s Company • Tom Stergios, ATG • Tom Swenson, Bank of Montana • Tony Jablonski, University of Montana • Travis Linneman, Selway Armoury • Wolf Ametsbichler, Missoula Job Service

Speakers are listed at the firms they represented when they spoke in the Gallagher Building. Guest speakers are a valuable component of our students' education. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the speakers listed. Please notify us if your name is listed incorrectly or omitted.

DEAN’S REPORT 2014-2015 | 24
Accounting Student Lands Coveted Job in Exclusive Purina Program

When Alanna Shuey graduates with an accounting degree from the School of Business Administration this spring, she’ll head to the Midwest to start her career in Nestle Purina’s exclusive accounting trainee program.

Shuey is the first SoBA graduate to land a job with Purina. She applied for the program based on a Griz eRecruiting ad. After a grueling hiring process that started with a phone interview and ended several weeks later with an intense two-day group interview in Davenport, IA, Shuey learned she was one of just 40 people hired from a pool of 8,000 applicants.

“Everyone was really great, but they definitely put you to the test,” Shuey said of the interview process.

After landing the job, Purina flew Shuey, 22, and her parents to Nestle Purina headquarters in St. Louis to learn more about the company. Shuey, who is originally from Lewiston, ID, will begin her career with Purina in Davenport, where she’ll learn how the company operates. Then she’ll acquire specific accounting training. Shuey said she’ll focus mainly on cost-accounting, though her options are open.

“The nice thing with this program is they hire people for all these different perspectives,” Shuey said. “You can try out one position and if you don’t care for it, there are many other options.”

MBA Candidate Mariah Williams Appointed to Serve on State Board of Regents

UM student Mariah Williams was appointed by Montana Governor Steve Bullock to serve as the next student regent on the state Board of Regents. Williams served as a senator on the Associated Students of UM and as its vice president. She earned her undergraduate degree last spring and is in her first year of the MBA program.
UM Team Realizes 21% in Regional Investment Competition

D.A. Davidson & Co., the largest full-service investment firm based in the Northwest, released results of its annual Student Investment Program in November. The University of Montana student finance team ended the year with a 21 percent return on its investments. The UM team was one of 20 teams representing western U.S. public and private universities that were provided with $50,000 to invest in the stock market.

UM teams have competed in the D.A. Davidson competition almost since its inception. This year the UM team received a check for $4,002, representing its share of earnings from the experience. UM has received more than $35,500 since joining the program in 1986. John Passuccio, associate vice president and financial adviser in D.A. Davidson’s Missoula office, serves as adviser to the UM student team.

D.A. Davidson’s Student Investment Program was designed to offer hands-on education in finance, stock research, portfolio management and other investment topics to upper-level college students.

A version of this article written by David Erickson originally appeared in the Missoulian and is published here with his consent.

MISA Wins Three International Awards

The Montana Information Systems Association (MISA) is UM’s student chapter of the Association for Information Systems (AIS), the premier global organization for academics specializing in information systems. Throughout each academic year, MISA hosts industry speakers, engages in experiential learning through field trips and provides training to other SoBA students.

The hardworking students of MISA have won numerous awards from AIS in the past, but last year’s group received awards in three separate categories. AIS recognized MISA for its outstanding achievements in promoting the study of information systems, community service and fundraising during the 2013-14 academic year.

MISA earned the Outstanding “Careers in Information Systems” Award for promoting the study or practice of information systems, the Outstanding Community Service award for making major contributions to the local community and the Outstanding Fundraising Award for creating successful and sustainable funding strategies for the chapter.
Electronic data is created everywhere, from credit card transactions to satellite sensors. As its volume and velocity increase, businesses and scientists have recognized the need for new techniques to analyze this “big data.” Several UM departments responded to this trend by building an interdisciplinary curriculum to educate students on cutting-edge approaches, starting with a first-of-its-kind course in real-time data analytics offered fall of 2012.

This May, seven UM students will be the first to graduate with an interdisciplinary certificate in data analytics. Two of the students major in math, one in computer science and four in management information systems.

To earn the certificate, students must complete six required credits and six elective credits. The required courses include an introductory data analytics course and a capstone big data projects course. The elective courses include a wide variety of options, from pattern recognition to marketing analytics.

According to a 2014 CNBC Special Report, “Employees with big-data skillsets are in demand.” CNBC estimates that by 2018 there will be 4 million big-data-related positions in the U.S. These positions would pay median salaries of $80,000 to those with less than three years of experience and $150,000 to analysts with nine or more years of experience.

2014 STUDENT AWARDS

SELECTED BY FACULTY

Outstanding MBA Student
Andrea Duke
Outstanding Off-Campus MBA Student
Michael Sullivan
Outstanding MAcct Student
Brandon Gebhardt

SELECTED BY STUDENTS

Outstanding MBA Student
Hannah Thompson
Outstanding Off-Campus MBA Student
Kelly Casey
Outstanding MAcct Student
Timothy Byrd
Outstanding MAcct Student
Shandell Vandonsel
Friday, April 11, 2014 was a busy day on the University of Montana campus. Over 150 students presented their research at the annual UM Conference on Undergraduate Research, or UMCUR. The day-long conference offers opportunities for UM students of all majors to present their research and creative scholarship through oral presentations, posters, performances and exhibits.

SoBA accounting major Jill Sharp won the award for best poster presentation in the Social Sciences category at UMCUR and received recognition at an award ceremony at the Mansfield Library. Her winning presentation was entitled, “Donors to Social Welfare Organizations: Are they avoiding gift tax?”

“Initially, the idea of originating my own research was daunting,” admitted Jill. “After presenting at UMCUR, however, I realized how the research process was an entirely new educational experience. I had to implement everything I have learned up to this point into the project in order to be successful. Ultimately, it was a very rewarding experience, and I owe a lot to my faculty mentor, Joshua Herbold, who helped me through every step of the process.”
Shawn Clouse Wins John Ruffatto Memorial and Most Inspirational Teacher of the Year Awards

Shawn Clouse, Professor of Management Information Systems, received the Most Inspirational Teacher of the Year Award at an awards ceremony on Charter Day. This award is voted on by students in recognition of a professor who has had an extraordinary impact on their lives.

Clouse also received the John Ruffatto Memorial Award. This award was established to encourage and reward UM faculty who impart practical, applicable principles into their classroom presentation. When Ruffatto, a retired Missoula financial consultant, and his friends and colleagues created the award in 1990, they did so to solidify the interdependent relationship between local businesses and the University of Montana.

Teresa Beed Receives 2015 George D. Anderson Distinguished Service Award

Professor of Accounting Teresa Beed was recognized as the recipient of the 2015 George D. Anderson Distinguished Service Award. Each year the Montana Society of CPAs (MSCPA) bestows this award on a member whose contribution to the accounting profession and involvement in community, including charitable and civic activities, merits the MSCPA's outstanding recognition.

Beed has been an active member of the MSCPA since 1980. Her service includes serving a three-year term on the MSCPA Board of Directors. She is a trustee on the Legacy Council Foundation.

When asked how it feels to be presented with such a prestigious award, Beed didn’t hesitate to share the credit, “It is a truly gratifying award. I could never have gotten it without the help of a great many people I have worked with in the MSCPA, SoBA and other professionals over the years. I am so fortunate to love what I do. To be recognized for it is beyond fantastic!”

Kent Swift Receives Greening UM and Outstanding Accounting Educator of the Year Awards

Kent Swift received a Greening UM Award from the UM Sustainability Committee for his efforts in developing and teaching a new course on Sustainability Reporting. The course examines how organizations report on their economic, environmental and social performance. Not only was Swift recognized for what he has already accomplished, he also received a UM Instructional Development grant which will be used to construct an advanced course on sustainability reporting.

The Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants awarded Swift the 2014 Jack Kempner Outstanding Educator Award. “It’s a great honor to be recognized by the Montana Society of CPAs,” Swift said. “I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Montana students for almost 30 years.”

This award honors an educator who is distinguished for excellence in classroom teaching, motivating students and educational innovation. The award also recognizes the recipient’s contributions to the accounting profession, as demonstrated by active involvement in professional activities, such as professional accounting organizations.
2014 FACULTY AWARDS

Outstanding Accounting Faculty
Casey McNellis

Outstanding Finance Faculty
Keith Jakob

Outstanding Accounting & Finance Adjunct
Kristen Sohlberg

Outstanding Management Faculty
Suzanne Tilleman

Outstanding Marketing Faculty
Jakki Mohr

Outstanding Management & Marketing Adjunct
Sherry Liikala

Outstanding Management Information Systems Faculty
Cameron Lawrence

Outstanding Master of Accountancy (MACct) Faculty
Kent Swift

Outstanding Master of Business Administration (MBA) Faculty
Edward Guay

Outstanding Off-Campus MBA Faculty
Cameron Lawrence

Retirement is not an option.....

Jack Morton, Professor of Management Information Systems, will transition at the end of spring 2015 semester from teaching business law, as he has done for the past 44 years, into focusing full time on his online company, America’s Professor.

Jack started at the SoBA in September of 1971 as a young attorney. When we asked him to recall a few memorable moments he said “Two things changed my life. Jack Kempner, Chair of the Accounting program, assigned me to teach the CPA Law Review course. That exam was so tough it forced me to become a much better teacher. I recall so fondly a large number of truly great students, like Eric and Craig Anderson, Eric Sprunk, Margie Sample and Brad Dantic. I had to know my stuff to answer their questions – and there have been so many of those super stars in my classes. The second stroke of good luck was in the 1970s. The Business School had a contract with the Montana Board of Real Estate to teach a real estate pre-licensing course. That has been a wonderful experience – it is a nice change to teach older students who have a variety of life experiences.”

Jack and his wife, Nancy, have been integral to the SoBA tailgate since its inception. They will continue to meet up with Emeritus faculty, the Dean and Dee Dee Gianchetta to prep the ingredients for SoBA’s famous Jambalaya the night before the game, and get up at the crack of dawn to cook it. He asked us to tell you he looks forward to seeing all of you and “To all of my former students and my colleagues, I can only say thank you, thank you for making my job the best on the planet - lucky me! Go Griz!”

Arnie Sherman served as the Executive Director of the Montana World Trade Center located in the School of Business since 1997. During Arnie’s tenure he raised over 11 million dollars in financial support and took U.S. companies on trade missions to more than 20 countries.

He also taught international business in the management department as an adjunct professor. He firmly believed students received tremendous value by working as interns in the trade center. More than 150 student interns worked with Arnie in the MWTC. He also believed strongly in international travel for students and was instrumental in setting up the ongoing summer student program with the University of Brescia, Italy.

Arnie is now Managing Director of Northern Rockies Regional Center, LLC, a Foreign Direct Investment Fund, certified by United States Citizen and Immigration Service for the State of Montana.
Jason Triche
Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems
Jason earned his PhD in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management Information Systems from Texas Tech. Prior to pursuing his PhD, Jason worked as a technology consultant and a project manager at Accenture and a small niche consulting firm in Kansas City traveling extensively throughout the U.S. and internationally. He earned his project manager professional certificate (PMP) in 2008. His research interests include knowledge management, IT failures, impression management tactics and organizational changes due to IT implementations. Over the past four years, he taught Introduction to Operations Management and Introduction to Information Systems. Prior to moving to Missoula, he was a member of the Kansas City Wind Symphony and taught classes for students trying to earn their GED. In his free time, Jason enjoys traveling, playing golf, playing the clarinet, directing choir and watching football.

Kate Jennings
Senior Director of Development
Kate Jennings joined the SoBA family in May 2014 and was quick to establish relationships across the school. Prior to working with the School of Business Administration, Kate served as the senior director of development for the College of Forestry and Conservation at UM. She spent eight years in political and nonprofit fundraising, which took her all over the country. In 2008 she moved from Washington, DC to Missoula and joined the University of Montana Foundation. Kate’s degrees are in communications and political science from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Kate lives in Missoula with her husband Matt, 3 year-old daughter Josie and two cattle dogs. When Kate is not at work, she and Matt are taking on extensive do-it-yourself projects at their home, enjoying Missoula events and exploring the great outdoor opportunities Montana has to offer.

Estella Anderson
Director of Career Development
Estella Anderson joined the School of Business Administration as the Director of Career Development in February 2015. Her previous experience was working at Biomimicry 3.8 and at UM as the director of pre-pharmacy advising and director of the Native American Center of Excellence. Her work in education has primarily included helping minority students gain access to higher education and advising them on their educational pathway. Her focus is to enhance career advancement efforts, engage students in the career development process and to further develop professional relationships with recruiters to address the needs of School of Business Administration students. When Estella is not working she is a full-time mom, wife and enjoys her children’s soccer games.
Jenni Warren
SoBA Development Coordinator
Jenni Warren joined SoBA as development coordinator in January 2015. She actively supports the senior director of development at the School of Business Administration and the comprehensive fundraising efforts of the School and UM Foundation. Jenni plays a key role in growing the funding base by helping to cultivate relationships with donors and supporters. She is a proud UM graduate with a bachelor’s degree in communication focusing on human relations. After graduation, Warren worked in the sales and hospitality bringing that skill set to her new role. Warren is a Pacific Northwest native at heart and loves to explore all that Montana has to offer. Warren and her husband, Justin, enjoy all the aspects of living in Missoula with their pets and are expecting their first child in August.

Judy Douglas
Career Development Coordinator
Judy Douglas joined the SoBA’s Career Development Program in January 2015. Previous to this she volunteered in the Entertainment Management Program. She has been a research reporter for Informed Enterprises and a high school physics teacher. She has a M.S. degree from the University of Maine. Douglas lives in Frenchtown with her husband Scott and son Andy. She enjoys family time, hiking, kayaking, yoga, skiing and almost any adventure in nature.

SoBA Staff Member is Sound Recorderest on House Hunters

Instructional Media Technician Jeff Meese worked in Helena on August 9, 2014 to record sound as part of the crew on the HGTV television series House Hunters: Where Are They Now? The program followed up with new homeowners Brian and Jenipher Lorber, who were featured on an original House Hunters episode in December 2013. Meese was hired again by Pie Town Productions, Inc. of Hollywood, California, and Buckshot Productions, Inc. of Orlando, Florida, after having recorded sound for the same production team on the original program.

In addition to his duties at SoBA, Meese has worked as a freelance sound recordist in the broadcast industry since 1994, working for such clients as National Geographic Television, the BBC, Discovery Networks, PBS, History Channel and ABC News.

Jeff Meese, SoBA Instructional Media Technician
Montana World Trade Center’s (MWTC) new executive director, Brigitta Miranda-Freer, is off to a quick start with this innovative program. Since fall 2014, MWTC has provided service to 22 Montana companies, while engaging nearly two dozen students in the process. In addition, MWTC has hosted several events designed to facilitate international trade and investment for Montana companies in recent months. While visits from the Canadian Consulate in Missoula and Kalispell were attended by more than 70 Western Montanans in the first quarter of 2015, quarter two should be even more impactful for Montana businesses with visits from the Irish Consul General, the Asia Montana Energy Summit and an upcoming MWTC trade mission to Canada.

American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL) is the only American Indian non-profit organization solely dedicated to empowering business students in the United States. The programs are designed to engage students in activities that stimulate, enhance, and expand educational experiences beyond traditional academic methods. All students are encouraged to participate in AIBL regardless of race, academic major or career objectives. The mission of AIBL is to increase the representation of American Indians and Alaska Natives in business and entrepreneurial ventures through education and leadership development opportunities.

Economic Outlook Seminars – BBER

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research’s 40th Annual Montana Economic Outlook Seminar tour wrapped up in March with its biennial trip to Sidney and Miles City.

As with most 40-year-olds, this milestone provides an opportunity to look back and reflect on what has remained the same and what has changed. The Montana Economic Outlook Seminars continue to provide up-to-date information and analysis. What has changed? It has been the Montana economy. The big news is the unconventional energy boom centered on the Montana-North Dakota border. This year’s trip to Sidney and Miles City gave the researchers a first-hand look at the new hotels, a new mall and restaurants that were not there just two years earlier.

The seminars were held in nine Montana cities and featured keynote speaker Dr. Bill Whitsitt, executive in residence at the Bureau and retired Devon Energy executive vice president, providing and insider’s view of the “New American Energy Revolution – Reshaping Montana.”
SoBA BY THE NUMBERS:

15% of UM international students are business majors.

17,445 total living alumni.

1949 year that SoBA accredited by AACSB.

2018 SoBA centennial.

130,491 square footage of GBB.

21 classrooms in GBB.

1320 Fall 2014 undergraduate enrollment.

182 alumni living in Malaysia.

1314 graduates on LinkedIn who are employed by KPMG.

15% of UM international students are business majors.
Tales from the Road

It’s been nearly a year since I joined the School of Business Administration as the senior director of development. Since then, I’ve spent a lot of time on the road meeting alumni, donors, parents and friends. I have braved snow, rain (thank you Seattle!) and fog (thank you Missoula!) and enjoyed the unbelievable beauty of a summer day on the open road. I’ve eaten more plane food than I care to admit and have scoured airports for “work trip” gifts for my three-year-old daughter, Josephine.

I have met SoBA alumni in offices, coffee shops (lots of coffee shops!), conference rooms, restaurants and living rooms from Great Falls, MT to Great Falls, VA. I have toured companies that were built from the ground up and taken meetings in skyscrapers. I have talked about long-retired SoBA faculty and current students doing incredible things. Wherever I am -- whether an accounting firm in Portland, a ranch in Livingston, a backyard in Palm Desert, a hotel in New York, or a classic car showroom in Tacoma -- I hear the same thing: a love for Montana, the University of Montana and the School of Business Administration.

People tell me over and over again, “I got where I am today because of what I learned while getting my undergrad, MBA or MACct.” One of the most rewarding parts of my job is thanking people for their financial support of UM and SoBA. Most people say that they give back because SoBA gave them so much. We have had a extremely successful year in fundraising because of YOUR generosity.

There are a lot of you out there still to meet - and I hope to do so soon! Please let me know if you are in Missoula for a Griz game so I can say hi, or if I can stop by during my travels to talk about all the great things going on at the University of Montana. Contact me at kate.jennings@mso.umt.edu or 406.243.4569
Tim Long Honors Malta Roots with Scholarship and Estate Gift to UM

High school students in Malta and greater Phillips County, Montana are being given first priority in competing for a SoBA scholarship thanks to Tim Long who recently endowed a School of Business scholarship for that region. Long (Business Administration ’78) grew up in Malta, a wheat and cattle ranching community, located on what Montanans call “the highline,” (a reference to the early railroad that still runs across northern Montana close to the Canadian border). With approximately 2000 residents, Malta has a country music station and an Amtrak stop. Its median household income is around $32,000, not enough for many students to even think about attending college without some sort of support. Long decided to establish a scholarship so that students who have the talent but not the means could attend the University of Montana. Through this scholarship, Long hopes that he can help the young residents of his home town realize their career goals, just as he has done.

When asked what he learned from growing up in this small town that looks like a backdrop for a western movie with distant horizons and wide-open spaces, he responded, “It was great growing up there and it is responsible for a lot of things including my work ethic. From the time I was young, I had to work for the extras in life. If I wanted a new bike, I had to mow lawns. Not many people in Malta have things handed to them.” Long, however, was one of the fortunate high school students whose parents were able to send him to UM, “at great sacrifice,” he added.

Tim Long likes to tell friends he graduated from UM in five football seasons, or four and a quarter years. He describes his years at UM “as a privilege. It was fun. It opened up a world of new experiences and lifelong friends.” When he talks about academics, Long credits SoBA with teaching him how to think creatively and problem solve along with broadening his skill set.

Indeed Tim Long’s illustrious career exemplifies what he learned from his life in Malta and his positive educational experience at UM. He worked at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), a department of the US Treasury, for almost 32 years. He finished his career at OCC as the Senior Deputy Comptroller and was in charge of Bank Supervision, Bank Supervision Policy and was the Chief National Bank Examiner for the Agency. He said he was told by a longtime mentor when he accepted the job as head of Bank Supervision, that “the only bad thing about this position is that when things go wrong you have nobody to blame.”

Tim Long retired from OCC in 2011. He explained that “for six months I played a lot of golf.” Long’s retirement was interrupted by an offer for an interesting position as Head of Global Risk and Compliance Practice for Protiviti, a global business management consulting firm. Tim Long’s work ethic is evident from his daily calendar – commuting between homes in California and New York for Protiviti, advising financial services clients and serving on the board of Pacific Coast Banking School. He concedes “Someday, I really will retire.”
UM Business School Honors Alumni for Career Achievements

The University of Montana School of Business Administration honored three alumni for outstanding career achievements at the 67th annual Donor Recognition and Scholarship Awards Banquet on Friday, May 9, 2014.

The alumni honored were Patrick Hanley, Outstanding Distinguished Alumnus; Corey Edens, Outstanding Alumnus; and Kayreen Handley, Outstanding Early Career Alumna.

Patrick Hanley is a Montana native from Lewistown. He began his career in accounting after earning a Bachelor of Science in business administration in 1977 from UM. Hanley held increasingly responsible positions with KPMG for more than 30 years, including working in Australia and Chile.

Hanley advised organizations primarily focusing on the mining, oil and gas industries. His interest stemmed from his upbringing in Lewistown and nearby Maiden, the historic gold-mining town where his grandfather settled in 1895 as a miner and prospector. As the seventh of 11 children born to Edward “Red” and Selma Hanley, Patrick learned about hard work and perseverance, lessons which have carried him throughout his career.

Hanley retired from KPMG in 2011. His family continues their personal philanthropic and community service interests in Seattle. Hanley serves as an analyst with his daughter Elizabeth Hanley’s law firm. He spends as much of the summer as possible in the Montana restored “ghost” town, frequently joined by their five children: Elizabeth, Juliann, Michael, Kathleen and Teresa and their five grandchildren. Hanley credits his accomplishments in no small part to his wife of 40 years, Marilyn.

Corey Edens grew up enjoying the Big Sky Country on the Hi-Line in Cut Bank. He attended UM and graduated with high honors in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in accounting.

Edens has held executive, finance and accounting positions with companies such as Valcon Distributing, the Microsoft Network and real estate and computer industries. He also spent a year in Switzerland working in foreign currency risk management. In 2000, Corey formed RiM Tec Inc. with a longtime friend, focusing on creating solutions to assist multinational companies in understanding and managing financial risk associated with foreign currencies.

Edens serves as the chief solution officer of FiREapps, RiM Tec’s cloud-based foreign currency analytics application, overseeing product and solution strategy. He has been published in the Journal of Corporate Treasury Management and is a frequent speaker at industry events.

Edens has chaired the UM Business Advisory Council, co-chaired fundraising efforts for the creation of the career development position at UM’s School of Business Administration and has served two terms on the UM Foundation Board of Trustees.

Kayreen Handley was born in Missoula County, growing up on her parent’s ranch in Clinton. She graduated from Hellgate High School in 1988, and in 1992 earned a Bachelor of Science from UM in business administration with high honors.

After graduation, Handley went to work for KPMG in the audit practice of the Billings office and then spent two years in KPMG’s Department of Professional Practice in New York City. She moved to Seattle in 2004 and currently is an audit partner with KPMG LLP.

Handley’s recent focus has been on providing audit services to forest products companies, companies providing software as a service, for-profit health care providers, health care product manufacturers and biotechnology companies. She also audits clients in the road cargo transportation, highway and heavy construction, mining, power generation and banking industries.

Handley is a securities and exchange commission reviewing partner, an audit methodology partner, a diversity partner champion and has experience with complex accounting and reporting issues for both the public and private sectors. Her experience includes securities and exchange commission reporting, internal control over financial reporting, mergers and acquisitions, lease accounting, accounting for income taxes and accounting for share-based payment arrangements.

Handley is a licensed CPA in Montana, Washington and New York state, and is member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants. She has served on the School of Business Administration’s Accounting and Finance Advisory Board and currently serves as the secretary/treasurer of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington & Alaska. She resides in Issaquah, Wash.
SoBA Alumnus Eric Sprunk (’86) Receives UM Distinguished Alumni Award

Eric Sprunk, a native of Missoula and resident of Beaverton, OR, is Nike’s chief operating officer. The first COO in Nike’s history, Eric is responsible for leading all manufacturing, logistics, IT, procurement and global real estate and facilities. He also oversees efforts to drive innovation across the company’s supply chain.

While a staff accountant for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Portland, OR, Eric was assigned the Nike account. After more than seven years with PwC, during which he was promoted early to the level of manager, he was recruited by Nike as finance director of the Americas region. In the next 20 years, Eric served as finance director of Nike Europe, director of Nike Europe Footwear, vice president and general manager for the Americas region, senior vice president of global footwear and executive vice president of global product and merchandising. He is one of the youngest people to hold the position of vice president in the company’s history.

Eric is known for his down-to-earth personality and the genuine interest he takes in those around him, as well as his commitment to his Montana roots and the University of Montana. He has served on the School of Business Administration Dean’s Business Advisory Council, National Advisory Board for Grizzly Athletics and the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center/Rosemary Anderson board. A stand-out class AA basketball player for Missoula’s Hellgate High School, Eric spent more than 15 years coaching his children in Little League baseball, youth basketball and youth football, including five years while living in the Netherlands.

Eric received the Distinguished Alumni Award during Homecoming week.
OF NOTE:

YES, YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN.

AIMEE ROBERTS

Aimee Roberts (Marketing BS’08, MBA’14) returned to Montana as an AgVision Specialist for Northwest Farm Credit Services in February. In her current position she is often on the road in her white extended cab pick-up visiting beginning and small ag producers from Dillon to Billings helping them secure credit. Roberts is no stranger to farming, having grown up on a dryland wheat farm outside of Pullman, WA. And she admits the love of the land is in her blood. “The beauty of the Montana landscape and the connection people in Missoula have to the outdoors and to the University of Montana helped me decide to attend UM. It felt like home.”

After graduation, Roberts left Montana to work in Priest Lake, ID. She returned to Montana in 2011 to accept a position as a Conference and Event Coordinator for UM. While holding down a full time position, Roberts enrolled as an MBA student in 2012. She credits her current position with Northwest Farm Credit Services to the excellent career counseling and the opportunities to network offered by the MBA program. After receiving her MBA, Roberts was hired by Northwest Farm Credit Services as a Credit Officer in Spokane, WA. As soon as she was eligible, she applied for her current position in Montana, “I have friends and family here. Montana has a special place in my heart. It is where I wanted to be, where I see my future.”

In talking with Aimee Roberts, her excellent communication skills are obvious. She listens, she engages. When asked how she honed these skills she replied, “The MBA program could be stressful, but it sure taught me how to be comfortable getting up in front of a group of people.” In assessing her entire UM educational experience, she suggested that what she valued so highly were the relationships she had with her professors and other students, “I loved the community that was created by the School of Business. People cared about each other.”

Asked if she thought it were important to leave Montana after graduation, Roberts said, “it is difficult to stay here right out of school. The positions are just not readily available.” But she clarified that, “with persistence it is possible to find a company with the same shared values and potential for growth. There are excellent career opportunities in Montana for someone with experience.”

For recreation, Aimee Roberts can be found fly-fishing, hiking or taking a pack trip into the mountains. When she is not on the road for business, Aimee tries to participate in the many social causes supported by her firm such as the Montana Food Bank, Relay for Life and Race for the Cure to fight breast cancer. Aimee, indeed, has returned home.
“Home is where the heart is” has proved to be true for many SoBA alumni who left Montana after graduation to pursue employment opportunities elsewhere. We have found that over the years many graduates have realized their dream of returning to Montana to engage in their careers and to be part of the unforgettable Montana lifestyle.

With apologies to author Thomas Wolfe, our “Yes, You Can Go Home Again” series on our web page and in the Dean’s Report features a few of the alumni who through planning, luck and grit realized their goal of coming home.

If you are one of the SoBA alumni who left Montana and then found a way to return to work in Big Sky Country, we would like to hear from you. Please share your story with us by contacting Jenni.Warren@mso.umt.edu

RUSS PIAZZA

“My work offers me more adventure than I can ever want,” declares Russ Piazza (finance ’77), a portfolio manager with Front Street Capital Management Inc., an investment management firm Russ opened in 2006. Adventure is something Russ Piazza thrives on, for he is also a portfolio manager with Tarkio Fund, a no load equity mutual fund he and his team created in 2011. Tarkio Fund has been awarded four and five star ratings by Morning Star rating agency, quite an accomplishment for a small organization originating in Missoula just three short years ago. According to Russ, “our ratings place the Tarkio Fund around the top ten percent of 770 funds in Tarkio’s category. We feel quite good about that.”

Set Goals High. When asked how he achieved these lofty goals, Piazza declared, “in order to realize goals one has to have them. I am goal oriented. But, reaching my goals has been a fascinating journey. It all began at UM.” Russ Piazza reluctantly left Missoula armed with a degree in Business Administration and headed back home to Southern California where there were jobs for recent college graduates. According to Russ, “Missoula at that time just didn’t offer many professional opportunities for someone starting out in business. I had put myself through college in four years working thirty-five hours a week at Bob Ward’s. And I was eager to begin my career.”

LifeStyle was an important criterion. Piazza said he originally wanted to stay in Montana because of the lifestyle. “There is nothing like the environment we have here. The freedom, the outdoors, the sense of community. But you can’t eat lifestyle. So I returned to city life in LA and was fortunate to acquire a position with Crowell, Weedon and Co., a regional investment firm. That position taught me a great deal. I enjoyed the work, but I missed the Montana lifestyle.”

While on vacation in Missoula about two years after his return to Southern California, Piazza stopped by Piper Jaffrey investment firm and was offered a position on the spot. “I worked twenty-eight years for them until they were purchased. That is when I decided it was an opportune time to go out on my own and create Front Street Capital.

SoBA changed my life. Russ declared that his SoBA education played an important role in his business success. Piazza credited two business professors, in particular, in making a difference in how he viewed himself. “They had high standards. They gave me confidence in my decision making ability. They encouraged me to think creatively and motivated me to want to do my best. I think professors can have an enormous impact on a young person’s career, especially if they care about their students. I know they impacted mine.”

Doing business with the right philosophy. Asked about his business philosophy, Piazza pulled out a sheet of paper with six points on it. “Here it is,” he said. The points listed were: integrity, long-term focus, purpose and passion, teamwork, employee empowerment, disciplined capital allocation. “These are what guide the decisions of everyone who works here.”

Anyone who knows Piazza, knows that he has been a long term fan of Warren Buffet. His eyes light up when he talks about him. “Warren Buffet is an investment guru. He gets it. Read his annual reports. They are fascinating. He knows how to explain his ideas to people in language they understand. He is not only absolutely brilliant, he is a humble man. He treats people with respect. And he gives back to society.”

Russ Piazza also gives back to society. Among his many activities over the years is helping community organizations and the University of Montana. He has spoken to many business classes in SoBA. When the MBA’s went to visit Warrant Buffet three years ago, it was Piazza who volunteered to teach a seven hour Warren Buffet “boot camp” to prepare them for the visit. Russ Piazza was also part of the original Community Medical Center Foundation and served as the investments advisor without compensation for many years. He was a member of the Missoula Strikers Board for 15 years and currently is a member of the School of Business Dean’s Advisory Council.

Russ Piazza lives in Missoula with his wife Jayne, an accomplished artist. Their son, Nic, a junior in college, plays varsity soccer and is considering an MBA.
YES, YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN.

DALLAS NEIL

Missoula is home to many successful entrepreneurs who once lived in Missoula while attending the University of Montana, moved away for a part of their career and found a way to return and open a business in the Garden City. Dallas Neil is one of these SoBA graduates (BS ’99, MBA ’00).

Dallas Neil left Missoula to become an illustrious punter and tight end for the Atlanta Falcons and the New York Jets. During his time away from Montana, he opened five car washes in Atlanta (some he partnered with his father from Great Falls). Also, while in Atlanta, Dallas became involved with Chatham Capital learning investment banking with various venture capitalists. Dallas Neil returned to Missoula in 2005 and used his experiences to accomplish a major achievement. His team took a fledgling startup in the biodiesel industry, Nova Energy, public. Dallas resigned from his position in 2007 and continues his entrepreneurial adventures as the owner of The Source, a new health and fitness facility in Missoula.

Transitioning to an Entrepreneur’s Mind Set

According to Dallas, being an entrepreneur has presented him with different challenges from his work in big business and in professional sports. “When you are a professional football player, you do what the coach tells you. When you work with big business, there is a hierarchical structure in place. I have learned from my small business experience, employees don’t necessarily do what they are told unless you have a relationship with them. And customers don’t necessarily do what you tell them, even if it is their best interests, unless you communicate to them that they matter to you as individuals. Being an entrepreneur has forced me to develop my leadership skills and my interpersonal skills. I have learned that building personal relationships with employees and customers is the single most important aspect of being a successful small business owner.”

Neil also found that the Profit and Loss (P&L) statement has a great deal of influence over the activities of the small business owner. “When I worked for a large corporation, we outsourced everything. The P and L statement of a small business startup typically doesn’t have the cash to support outsourcing. I have to wear many hats. And I keep on learning how to change the shape of my head to wear more.”

When asked about the importance of his SoBA education on his multiple careers, Neil credits his professors at the School of Business for instilling in him confidence in his decision-making abilities. “My professors empowered me, which, in turn gave me the confidence to take on business challenges and find opportunities. I came to the university not knowing anything about computers and graduated with an undergraduate degree in what is now called MIS. Because the professors believed in my business abilities, I learned to believe in them myself. I had amazing professors who cared about my professional growth. They promoted continuous self-learning as well as classroom learning. The understanding that a person’s commitment to education must continue throughout a person’s life made a significant impact on me.”

Another significant impact on Dallas Neil is his family. His wife, Christy, is a personal trainer and program director for youth programs at The Source. Together they rear three young girls, Preslie, Landyn and Braydie. They are one of the most important reasons Dallas and Christy decided to move back to Montana. “Montana is a wonderful place to raise a family,” According to Dallas, “The people in Montana are genuine. The Neils also wanted to give back to a community that gave so much to me.”

Dallas and Christy give back in many ways. One of which is Dallas’ involvement in the Dream Bigger program for ten to fourteen year old boys. The Dream Bigger program coaches boys on how to set and reach their goals, how to become leaders and how to value themselves as people apart from their performance. Dallas attributes a great deal of angst in adolescent boys to not knowing who they are. If a child and others focus on how well a child performs on a playing field or on an academic test, when something goes wrong, that child considers himself a failure.

This sense of failure can become blown out of proportion which, in turn, can lead to disastrous personal consequences. Dallas has experienced this situation firsthand, “My roommate in NFL training camp tried to commit suicide when he was cut from the Atlanta Falcons. That was a shock to me. So I try to show younger boys that performance is only one aspect of a person. I believe that knowing how to set goals and understanding personal worth helps children deal constructively with difficult situations or individual setbacks.”

When asked why he chose to move to Missoula over Great Falls where he grew up, Dallas replied, “it was a tough decision. I love Missoula. I was always well supported by the Business School and the University. And I love Great Falls. I have wonderful family there. I have friends in both places. I guess I chose Missoula mainly because Great Falls is just a bit too windy.”
JEFF KENDRICK

Jeff Kendrick (accounting ’93) was born in Butte, grew up in Kellogg, ID and married his high school sweetheart, Stacy Fulton Kendrick (communication studies ’94). After graduation they set off to begin their careers in Dallas, TX. Jeff Kendrick accepted an offer to work in corporate tax for Arthur Andersen. According to Kendrick, “I was somewhat intimidated at first by all the other hires from graduate programs at big name schools. But I soon discovered I was very well prepared to do the work I had been hired to do. In fact, I was surprised to find out that I knew things the other new hires didn’t.”

Indeed, Kendrick was prepared for his accounting career. Not only was he one of the select few who had his CPA exam passed when he arrived at the Dallas offices of Arthur Andersen, his career progressed rapidly. “Arthur Andersen provided this kid from a small town the opportunity to work with numerous global corporations that had scale and complexity I would not have experienced if I had stayed in Montana,” said Kendrick. When the Dallas office of Arthur Andersen was acquired by KPMG’s Dallas office, Kendrick was soon on the fast track to becoming partner. He worked with KPMG for about another two years, when he received an offer he could not refuse. He was given the opportunity to become the CFO and part owner of what is now Doyles Sheehan. (Doyles Sheehan is a full service, wholesale distributor of food and beverage products headquartered in Missoula, with a large distribution center in Coeur d’Alene, ID. With over two hundred employees at two core locations, it services businesses from North Dakota to Oregon.)

Kendrick attributes a great deal of his business success to the professors he had at UM. “If you showed interest, and wanted to learn, they would do whatever you needed to help you realize your goals.” Kendrick said that he was encouraged by his father to look into UM when he was choosing a school. His father had attended UM and majored in accounting. “My father even had Jack Kempner!” (Kendrick is referring to Dr. Jack Kempner, a living legend at SoBA, known for his rigorous classes and high standards and beloved by so many of his students for thoroughly preparing them to excel in business wherever they went in world.)

“When I was presented with the opportunity to become part of Doyles Sheehan, Stacy and I decided that the timing was right. We were ready to move back to Montana for the lifestyle it afforded the family.” Kendrick describes the commute to downtown Dallas and the long hours demanded by a career in a major accounting firm, as difficult once they began having children. “We had a wonderful time in Dallas when we were a young, married couple. We traveled a great deal, we enjoyed the restaurants, and the cultural events. But once the children arrived, we wanted to have a life where we could spend more time with them.”

Besides his business interests, Kendrick also makes time for personal and volunteer activities. He is a travel ball basketball coach for the St. Joseph Rams 7th grade team; he has served on the board of the Parenting Place; he serves on the School of Business Advisory Board, and is active on the Career Development committee; and he is part of the Capital Campaign committee for Loyola-Sacred Heart Foundation. He enjoys all types of outdoor activities and is an avid GRIZ fan.

STACY KENDRICK

Stacy Fulton Kendrick was a communications major who took numerous marketing courses and competed on the intercollegiate SoBA Ad Team. Kendrick worked on the SoBA Ad Team for two years representing UM in regional competitions. Kendrick attributes her success in her first permanent position with an ad agency to the marketing curriculum and professors at UM, “my classes were relevant, and my course work was grounded in the real world of business. The “hands-on” case experience with the SoBA Ad Team was invaluable, and my internship at Spiker Communications in Missoula taught me how to navigate the agency world.”

When Kendrick arrived in Dallas, she landed a position with The Richards Group, a major agency with national accounts and approximately one billion dollars in billings. After a two-day interview, Kendrick was hired to work on accounts such as Chick-fil-A and Home Depot. “The Richards Group liked the fact I knew what a brief was, that I understood media strategy and that I enjoyed account work.” It is obvious that Kendrick was just what the agency was looking for as she became the youngest account executive ever promoted to supervisor at The Richards Group.

Kendrick describes her years in the big agency business as exciting. She would travel by private plane for client meetings and production of major campaigns. She would be on call all hours of the day and night. When Stacy left The Richards Group to return to Missoula, she was an Account Director in charge of Chick-Fil-A. It was a position that gave Kendrick great professional satisfaction. “I liked being in charge. I liked my job. I loved the agency. And I worked with smart, creative and motivated people.”

Kendrick declares she, “cried all the way to Dallas when they left Missoula, and she cried all the way back to Missoula when they left Dallas.” However it is apparent that Kendrick has again found her stride in Missoula. She accepted a position with Partners Creative, an ad agency in Missoula, when they first returned to town. Recently, she accepted a position as the Director of the Loyola Sacred Heart Foundation. Kendrick says she was drawn to this position with a nonprofit organization because it provides her with the opportunity to “give back to her boys’ school community.”

The flexibility of her current position allows Stacy the time to travel with her husband and two boys for games in the travel basketball league, an important family activity. Jeff coaches the St. Joseph Rams from November to May. Their son, Joseph, a seventh grader, is a basketball player on the team. And Jameson, seven, is ready to suit up. Stacy, once a track athlete herself, also enjoys hiking and skiing with her family.

Both Jeff and Stacy agree. “Montana is a wonderful place to have a family and a career.” They are very happy to be back home in Missoula.
DOROTHY TRENT, ’47, retired from the State of Oregon DHS in 1991 and lives east of Lebanon, OR. She currently takes a Life Stories class at Linn Benton Community College.

DON STANAWAY, ’52, runs A&I Distributors, a wholesale distributor of motor oil and automotive chemicals and equipment. A&I was founded in Butte in 1924 and is presently headquartered in Billings. Don still marches in the Homecoming Parade with the Alumni Band.

MIKE HARGROVE, ’67, is retired and spent the first three years building his retirement home - three interconnected geodesic domes on a salt water inlet near Olympia Washington. Mike volunteers several days a week doing ecological restorations.

GREG BARKUS, ’69, is retired from D.A. Davidson & Co and spends summers in Bigfork and winters in Indian Wells, CA. He and wife, Kathy, enjoy their nine grandchildren.

GALE GUSTAFSON, ’69, received his JD degree and Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1972. He and wife, Susan, moved to Conrad, MT, where he has been practicing law ever since (except for a stint in San Antonio, TX). Gale served as the Conrad City Attorney from 1973 to 1999, and has taught Business Law and Criminal Justice for the College of Great Falls and presented Seminars to colleagues for the National Business Institute. Two of their three children graduated from the UM Business School and are currently working and living in Missoula with their families. The Gustafsons keep busy with their ranch and the law practice, when not traveling to visit family.

PATRICK SHANNON, ’70, MS ’72, is now back on the faculty in the IT&SCM Department after serving six years as Dean of the College of Business and Economics at Boise State University. He and his wife, Kathy, are able to spend part of their summers in Montana and have two adult children.

JAMES MCDONALD, ’70, retired after 44 years in public and private accounting. Jim lives 10 miles south of Missoula with his family - enjoying the retired life and Griz sports.

TED WOLD, ’70, is mostly retired; still working on new inventions and is active in the wood products business.

MADELEINE DORAN, ’70, is retired after serving 30 years as a consultant, Personnel Director and the School Board’s Chief Labor Negotiator with three employee unions for the School District of Lee County, FL. She earned a Doctorate from the University of South Florida (Tampa) in 1987. Madeleine created a satellite graduate program in Lee County (Ft. Myers) in Human Resource Development for Barry University, Miami. She currently focuses on animal rescue and legislation.

NANCY LOCHMILLER, ’71, retired from public accounting in June 2014. As her 45th wedding anniversary approaches, they are enjoying life in Sandpoint, Idaho, and traveling whenever they can.

HEIDI (BEALS) MCCLAIN, ’74, is the CFO for a small company that created the Albertson’s Monopoly games with the rights for Hasbro licensing. Heidi lives in Atlanta, GA and has a daughter who is a successful polymer and fiber engineer.

CARL RUMMEL, ’76, is a CPA with a tax practice in Missoula and is board chair of Missoula Federal Credit Union. He received the National Association of Federal Credit Union’s "volunteer of the year" award in 2012 and the Montana Credit Union Network "volunteer of the year" award in 2013.

KAREN ZANOL, ’77, is completing 28 years with Cordell Neher & Company PLLC as a supervisor CPA in Wenatchee, WA. She and husband, Tim, have two children & two grandsons, and enjoy returning to Missoula to play in the Alumni Band at homecoming.

JAMES DELSIGNE, ’77, is now retired after working within public accounting (GaluSHA & Higgins) and governmental accounting (State of Mt-SRS, Dept of Adm, Labor and Commissioner of Higher Ed) sectors. Jim still uses the statistics he learned from Dean Gianchetta’s classes, predicting the NFL game outcomes each year since 1968. He and his wife enjoy the many splendors Montana has to offer with their family.
ALEXANDER CARTWRIGHT, ’78, is a Senior Master Scheduler, Proposal Consultant and Financial Analyst in the Aerospace and Health Care industries. He is a Theta Chi Alumnus and lives in Lake Tapps, WA with his wife, Sandra, and three children. Alex is a CPA, CGMA and a Fellow of the Guild of Project Controls.

DAN MCLAUGHLIN, ’78, Senior Vice President and Director of Community Relations for D.A. Davidson Companies. Paul Fiskness, ’78, serves as Senior Vice President of QUALCOMM Incorporated, heading up its Structured Finance & Strategic Investments Group. He also sits on the Board of a number of Qualcomm investee companies in Asia, India, Europe and the U.S., including NYC. Prior to joining QUALCOMM, Fiskness served for approximately 10 years as Vice President and Managing Director of Bechtel Enterprises. Fiskness also spent four years with the Kuwait based Gulf Investment Corporation and five years with Fluor Corporation in various senior finance, M&A, development and investment roles. In addition to his UM degrees, he holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration and Finance from the University of Southern California and a Series 7 NASD Broker / Dealer securities license.

PERRY COLE, ’79, MBA ’80, is Senior Advisor and Operating Partner focusing on energy investments in private companies and projects with Virgo Investment Group, LLC. Perry has served on the Boards of the ECP companies and the Boards of certain Virgo investments. While at ECP he lead the initial investments and development of PLH Group, an electric and pipeline construction company.

MICHAEL O’NEILL, ’80, is a 34 year employee of Northwestern Energy in Butte and is currently the Director or Labor Relations and Organizational Development. He and his wife, Karen, have one daughter, Katie. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Governors of Organizational Development Montana, is on the UM President’s Advisory Council and recently served on the UM Foundation Board as Treasurer and a Trustee.

JERRY KEGLEY, ’80, is the Senior VP & CFO of PrimeSource Building Products – a privately held distributor of building materials in Irving, TX. He and his wife Diane will celebrate 37 years of marriage this year. They have two adult sons.

DEBBY MCCONNELL, ’82, lives north of Spokane after 30 years of worldwide travel with her military husband. Debra completed a MA in Arts Management at George Mason University in 2009. She is Office Manager of the YMCA, as well serving on several non-profit boards.

SCOTT STANAWAY, ’82, is the General Manager of A&I Distributors, an automotive products wholesaler with locations throughout Montana and the Northwest.

KEVIN MAYER, ’82, is CEO of Richland Federal Credit Union, where he has worked for 30 years. He currently serves on the 9th District Federal Reserve Community Depository Institution Advisory Council and the Kansas Corporate Credit Union Board of Directors. In 2005 Kevin and his wife Lori, received the community service award from the University. They have three children, with their middle son attending UM and majoring in Business Finance.

MICHAEL CHILDERS, ’82, is now retired after nearly 30 years in the pipeline construction industry. In January of 2013, he and his wife Anette purchased a daycare. Now Mike spends his days grocery shopping for the daycare and chauffeuring his two girls and foster children around to their appointments.

MIRIAM KROSCHEL, ’85, owns and operates her own CPA firm in North Bend, WA. She and her husband, Kyle, enjoy traveling and spending time with their two grown daughters.

TOM DIMMER, ’85, is VP of Business Development & Exchange Solutions for Renaissance Life & Health, based in Indianapolis, IN. In eight short years, the start-up is now showing up in various top-10 lists of dental insurance companies in the US.

JOHN E. DAVIS, ’86, is the Director of Distribution for Western US and Canada with Zep Inc.

LEWIS PARRISH, ’86, is a Senior Technology Transfer Specialist working for Vencore Services & Solutions, Inc., supporting the Technology Transfer Office at NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida. Lewis works closely with the scientists who develop inventions to transfer the technology’s drawings, parts lists, software, firmware, etc. to the licensee. This is his 17th year in technology transfer, and having the opportunity to work directly with NASA researchers and technologies is an exciting and rewarding experience.
PENNY BULLOCK PORTERFIELD, '87, is VP of Operations & Business Development for The ZaneRay Group, Inc. in Whitefish. She works virtually with international clients and their ecommerce sales channels. She writes, "If I have to work, this is a great job to have!"

PRI FERNANDO, '87, began his career as a CPA in Missoula, MT, and is currently the market president and leader of the regional commercial banking team for U.S. Bank in Missoula.

LORRIE KLINKHAMMER BOEHNKE, '87, is employed by Providence Health & Services as the Western Montana Regional Director for Risk Management and Accreditation. Lorrie resides in Missoula with husband, Randy. Two of their three daughters are UM alums, their youngest a Carroll College graduate.

CHRISTOPHER MURRAY, '87, lives in Minneapolis, MN and is Vice President of Business Development, Jingit, LLC; Founder, Imani Sports; and Partner, GolfTec Minnesota.

IDA MEYERS, '88, lives in Helena and has a daughter who is a freshman at UM. Ida works at the Lewis & Clark Library, is the business manager of Crum Meyers Property, and does freelance writing. She looks forward to publishing her first children's book in the near future.

DARLENE EDGE, '88, works for the State of Montana, Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks as Lands Program Manager.

PATRICK MARTIN, '88, says earning his degree at UM and passing the CPA exam was the first step in preparing him for a career in taxation and ultimately as a lawyer. "The U of M was the perfect place to develop diligence skills and preparation for a personal and professional life." His family is based full time in Merida, Yucatan, where his daughters study. Patrick is listed in The Best Lawyers in America® – 2015 (Tax Law) and was given the University of San Diego, School of Law, 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award.

BILL PFINGSTEN, MBA '88, is Vice President of Ambulatory Services for Central Florida Health Alliance, a three hospital system located in Central Florida. He and his wife Renee live in Leesburg, FL.

JEFF LIEBHARDT, '90, is a Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Bold Rock Hard Cider, in Charlottesville, VA. Bold Rock is one of the fastest growing beverage companies in the U.S.

TAD SMITH, '91, has worked in advertising since graduation and has spent last 20 plus years executing ad plans for several major automotive brands, notably Mazda, Lincoln and Ford. After 18 years in Michigan, he recently relocated to Seattle.

KEVIN HARWOOD, '91, has been with the Wayne-Dalton Corp. for the last 15 years. He and his wife have also been selling candles and home decor for the last eight years. They recently moved the business to their home to have more time to raise their son.
DEAN’S REPORT 2014-2015 | 46

where are they now?

DARCY FIGURACION, ’92, lives in Spokane, owns a tax and accounting practice and works with her father, Ron Deming ’63, who is in his 50th year as a practicing CPA.

DIANA KEICKBUSCH BRINKMAN, ’92, worked with Ernst & Young and Deloitte & Touche in Alaska. She now works for Chugach Alaska Corporation, an Alaskan Regional Corporation, along with several UM and MSU grads.

MARTIN MEYER, ’95, is the Director of Flight Test at the US Air Force Regeneration Facility. Prior to this position, Martin was the Director of Operations at the 370th Flight Test Squadron, Edwards AFB, CA. Currently, Martin is completing his MBA from UCLA Anderson.

SHANNON NOBLE, ’97, graduated after serving 4.5 years in the US Navy (HSL-43 NASNI, San Diego). She is currently an Employment Specialist for the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program at the Missoula Job Service.

LINDA BICKNELL, ’98, earned a Master’s Degree in Computer Information Systems and has worked in the Technology Department of Missoula County for 15 years. Linda is currently working on her Doctorate (PhD) in the area of Public Policy and Administration through Walden University.

JARED AMOSS, ’99, is Assistant Director of the Grizzly Scholarship Association, after working 14 years in Minor League Baseball.

BIRGIT (BIGGI) WEISCHEDEL, MBA ’00, lives in Kelowna, British Columbia, where she teaches at the University of British Columbia Okanagan, as well as Okanagan College and Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC. Biggi still participates in triathlons, trail ultra races, and open water swims.

ANDREA (PIERCE) DIMATTEO, ’01, Vice President, US Bank in Missoula and is the relationship manager of its Private Client Group serving western Montana.

TERRI DONOVAN, ’01, MBA ’04, lives in Missoula and works for The Advisory Board Company based out of Washington D.C. as a Senior Director in their Revenue Cycle Solutions Consulting and Management Division providing consulting services to hospitals and healthcare organizations across the country.

AMY PARKER, ’02, MACCT ’03, is Audit Senior Manager for Deloitte & Touche LLP in Houston, TX, and serves on SoBA’s Business Advisory Council. She is married to DAMON PARKER, ’01, an Advisory Consultant at Deloitte. They have two sons, Sean (7) and Denzel (5), and still love watching the Griz play all the way from Texas!

ERIC BRADFORD, ’02, recently finished his DPT degree at the UM physical therapy program and his certification as a Geriatric Clinical Specialist in Physical Therapy. He is on active duty with the United States Public Health Service, having attained the rank of Commander, when he manages the Diabetes and Diabetes Prevention Programs for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in Warm Springs, OR. Additionally, Eric is the US Public Health/Coast Guard Representative for the American Physical Therapy Association’s Federal Physical Therapy Section and the Membership Chairman for the Federal PT Section. He and his wife, Connie, have a daughter, Lindsay, who recently graduated from the nursing program at Montana College.

TERRY LANG, ’04, works as a relationship banker for JPMorgan Chase in Denver.

MOLLY HEPBURN (BLEKEN), ’04, MACCT ’05, began her career at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Denver, CO. After eight years in public accounting, Molly left as an Assurance Manager to become the Technical Accounting Manager at MWH Global, Inc. Her husband, LEE HEPBURN, MACCT ’05, began his career at Deloitte & Touche as an International Tax Consultant. He, too, left public accounting after eight years and is a Federal Tax Manager at Molson Coors. They have a two year-old daughter and are expecting their second child in July 2015.

THOMAS FIREMOON, ’05, works for Wal-Mart as part of the management team.

CALEB SENN, ’05, is the Compliance Officer for the Family of Banks in Western Montana and the President of Bitterroot Valley Kiwanis.
DANIELLE ARNOLD, '06, is currently a Production Coordinator for Homewares at Urban Outfitters, Founder of Fashion|Tech|PHL, and CEO of Decked Style, a personal styling company.

MARITA HEROLD, '06, works as the Business Manager for Billings Logan Intl. Airport.

KRISTA PAUL, '07, works for Disney Cruise Line, onboard Disney Dream, as a Service Excellence Trainer, which includes overseeing all new employee training programs for its hotel departments. Krista was married last year. She met her husband working onboard. When not on the ship, they enjoy vacations in his home of Mumbai, India, and throughout the U.S.

BOB BOSCHEE, MBA '07, retired from his position as President & CEO of KPAQ Industries in Louisiana. Bob is still working in an advisory role during transition to new leadership. Bob and wife, Dona, now live in Arizona.

ELISSA LOONEY, '08, works for Perlo Construction, a commercial general contractor in Portland, OR. As the Manager for Special Projects Division, her focus is on marketing and managing projects and staff.

MATT WAGNER, '08, lives in Helena where he opened his own accounting firm.

JIM REILLY, '08, is Principal of StratMt Consulting Group, a business development and marketing strategy consulting firm in Missoula.

PETER KERN, '09, bought his father's bicycle shop, The Bicycle Hangar, and in November of 2014 opened a second location in downtown Missoula. Peter has stayed active in the alumni association of Sigma Nu, and was elected president of their local alumni association at Homecoming 2013. He and his wife, Hailey, have a two year old son, Hank.

KRISTIN PERSON, '09, is the Director of Budgets & Personnel for the College of Education & Human Sciences at UM. She writes, "My experiences while attending SoBA are what prepared me for this position, so many thanks to the many talented faculty in the School of Business Administration!"

CARLIE BREEN, '09, is a Director at Profitable Ideas Exchange (PIE), a boutique consulting firm based in Bozeman. PIE is a professional facilitation firm that specializes in building networks of executives on behalf of professional services organizations. Additionally, Carlie has her own photography business.

ALICIA BAYLOR, '10, has worked for Impact Advisors, a consulting firm in Chicago since graduation. Alicia is a Senior Advisor and currently works as a project manager for Northwestern Hospital in downtown Chicago in their Information Services department. Alicia continues to live and spend her free time in Missoula.

DANIEL THURMAN, '10, is a 1st Lieutenant and B-52H Stratofortress Navigator, currently assigned to the 11th Bomb Squadron's Formal Training Unit at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. Dan will transfer to the 69th Bomb Squadron located at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota in the summer of 2015.
**ZACHARY HORAT, ’11,** is a private equity associate at Partners Group, a global private markets investment management firm. After starting his career in finance in New York City, he moved to San Francisco at the beginning of 2014. Zachary has completed all three levels of the CFA program.

**CHRIS WILKINS, ’11,** lives in Minneapolis and attends the University of St. Thomas as a full-time MBA candidate. In May, Chris will intern with Henkel as a Sales and Category Management Intern.

**WALTER "MAC" KELLY, ’11,** works for the Denver Outlaws as Director of Outlaws Academy, the camps, clinics and tournaments branch of the professional lacrosse team.

**MARY LESTER, MBA ’12,** is a Financial Advisor with RBC Wealth Management in Great Falls. Partnering with her father, DENNIS LESTER MBA ’85, in the fall of 2012, they formed The Lester Investment Group. Mary is getting married this summer.

**TYLER WEBER, ’12,** lives in Kalispell where he manages two medical companies and was active in several startups. He co-chaired the Startup Weekend Glacier.

**KARA O’CONNELL, ’12,** is currently a second-year law student at the University of Virginia School of Law. Since graduation from UM, she has interned for two federal judges and has an internship for summer 2015 at Jones Day in Dallas, TX. Kara hopes to use both her accounting experience and law degree to work in corporate transactional law after graduation in 2016.

**LAURA (SIMPSON) GABRIELE-ENRIQUEZ, ’12,** returned to upstate New York after earning her marketing degree, and is now Digital Marketing Manager for Mohonk Mountain House, a resort hotel in the Hudson Valley. While working full time at Mohonk, Laura continues to blog, manage two e-commerce sites and consult to the health and wellness industry.

**TODD MATHEWS, ’12,** has worked with the open source LMS, Moodle, as a support specialist since before graduating. He worked for Moodlerooms after graduation and recently accepted a position with eThink Education in Baltimore, MD.

**JON RICH, ’13,** lives in Denver and works for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency as an Associate National Bank Examiner.

**IVY DONG, PHARMD/MBA ’13,** currently works for Banner Health in Arizona as an inpatient pharmacist.

**CHARLES GASSAWAY, ’13,** works as an assistant real estate underwriter and financial credit analyst at Three Rivers Bank of Montana in Kalispell.

**MARK SHIRLEY, ’13,** works as a general ledger accountant with Consumer Direct, a family of 18 companies that provides in-home health care in 11 states.

**CARLY RICKARD, ’13,** resides in San Diego, CA, and works as the Corporate and Community Development Officer for Rady Children’s Hospital.

**KAREN AMELSE, ’13,** is a billing analyst for Consumer Direct in Missoula and will be relocating spring 2015 to Tennessee.

**KEATON OSLER, ’13,** has been working in the staffing industry in Montana since graduation. He recently relocated to Portland, OR to work in HR at a high-tech software engineering company.

**JACLYN BAIRD, ’13,** is an entrepreneur, selling vintage clothing throughout California at fashion expos and trade shows. She was recently hired as Marketing Coordinator for Launch Moxie. Jaclyn also works for SilverLayne Casting as an executive assistant and studio manager.

**ALYSSA HANDS, ’14,** is pursuing an MBA at UM and volunteered in Nashville for Pollstar Live! with UMEM as part of the Entertainment Management Certificate.

**ABDULLAH ALJAMEA, ’14,** is a Project Manager at EduLog in Missoula.

**JUSTIN JOHN, MBA ’14,** is currently working on accounting and finance degrees, with plans to work for PwC in Philadelphia after graduation.
### 2014 Scholarship Awards (Total $284,000)

| Accounting and Finance Faculty Scholarship | John and Kathleen Connors American Indian Business Leaders Student Scholarships |
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| Big Sky Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) | Louise I. Voorhees Hoback Scholarship |
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| Brenda Farrell and M.B. (Scotty) Wilson Memorial Scholarship | Max and Betty Swanson Memorial Business Scholarship |
| Byrne Accounting Scholarship | Missoula Chapter, Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants Scholarship |
| D. Scott Frizzell Memorial Scholarship | Montana Bankers Association 25 Year Club |
| Dan and Sue Connors Scholarship | Montana First Credit Union Mabel Allen Memorial Scholarship |
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If you notice an error, please contact Jenni Warren at jenni.warren@msso.montana.edu and accept our heartfelt apologies.
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Paul and Betty Haack Make Generous Contributions to SoBA Scholarships and Gilkey Center

Nearly two dozen Montana School of Business Administration students will benefit from scholarships over the next five years thanks to a generous donation from two University of Montana alumni.

Paul Haack, ’72, business administration, and his wife, Betty, ’72, home economics, made a significant pledge through the UM Foundation to provide four $5,000 scholarships each year to in-state SoBA students.

Billings natives, Betty became a registered dietician at a Seattle area hospital and Paul started his career as a staff accountant with Deloitte & Touche. Betty retired after a few years to focus on their new son, Mike. They moved to Chicago in 2001, where Paul served as a senior partner. He was responsible for the firm’s services to aerospace and defense companies for many years. Paul retired from Deloitte in 2006, and he and Betty now live in Bellevue, WA, where they enjoy golf and boating. Paul continues to remain active on corporate boards of directors.

Paul currently serves on the UM Foundation Board of Trustees and is a former member of the Business Advisory Council at SoBA. He received SoBA’s Outstanding Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2010.

The Haacks also made a significant contribution to the Gilkey Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Executive Education currently under construction on campus, and the Networking Bistro will be named in their honor.

For information on how to make a gift to the School of Business Administration, please contact Kate Jennings at Kate.Jennings@mso.umt.edu or visit http://www.business.umt.edu/giving.
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“We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men; and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects.”

– Herman Melville