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In my 30th and final year as Dean, I am excited to report two of many new developments that you will read about in this year’s Dean’s Report. In the May meeting of the Montana Board of Regents, we expect approval of a new Master Degree program in Business Analytics. Five years ago, the faculty within the school of business led the campus in a movement to develop a certificate in Big Data. Other principle partners in this new program were Computer Science and Mathematics. The Big Data Certificate has become so popular for many students across the campus that the next logical step for us was to develop a master program in business analytics. This is one of many examples where our faculty sense emerging trends that present exciting career opportunities for, not only our students, but other students across the campus.

The next major project I want to include in my letter is the new Student Success Center being established within the Gallagher Business Building. Dee Dee and I are so proud that our names will be associated with this center which assures student success. Based on the student’s input, they felt that more students would access the student support offices in our school if they were together in one location and in the lower level of the Gallagher Business Building next to Biz Buzz, where they have student lounges and a coffee and sandwich shop. The Student Success Center brings together advising, the internship program, the career development program and graduate programs office. Each of these programs provides tremendous support and opportunity for our students. Currently they are all on the top levels of the business building, and not located next to one another. Many of our alums have given financial support to reconstruct portions of the lower level of the Gallagher Building to establish the Student Success Center. I know the students appreciate very much the willingness of the directors of these programs to move down to where the students spend most of their time.

Dee Dee and I have been blessed for the past 30 years, serving the roles of Dean and Deanel for the School of Business. As many of you already know, I will retire from the deanship effective June 30 of this year. Dee Dee and I love Missoula, and plan to live here the rest of our lives. I plan to stay connected with the University and continue to participate in a few of the programs that were established during my tenure. I share in everybody’s excitement concerning the new dean. I remember 30 years ago, at age 40, when it was announced I would be dean of the business school. This is such a critical time in the life of the business school and the University. I would ask all of us to embrace the new leadership, once the new dean is announced. I will have an opportunity to talk with all of the candidates being interviewed for this position, and will assure them that the business school is a very special and unique place to work. They can expect the alumni and friends of the business school to continue to support the University as they have done in the past. It is the alumni and friends of the university that have afforded the margin of excellence that we at the school of business are able to continue to provide to our students. Dee Dee and I look forward to being among those alumni and friends to do everything we can to support the school of business and the University of Montana.
The University of Montana now has its first endowed dean’s position, thanks to the generosity of two UM families who came together to ensure the school will always have strong leadership.

Mark Burnham ’84 and Eric Sprunk ’86, together with their families, have each made a $1 million contribution to create the School of Business Administration’s (SoBA) Endowed Dean’s Chair. Their private support will enable SoBA to recruit an exceptional candidate to fill Dean Larry Gianchetta’s very big shoes. Gianchetta retires on June 30, 2016, after 41 years as a professor and administrator at SoBA. The $2 million endowment guarantees that funds to support the next dean’s salary and vision will be available in perpetuity.

“UM offers the best undergraduate business education, and the state’s only MBA program. It’s important that we have a strong leader to drive innovation,” said UM President Royce Engstrom. “Mark and Eric have made an investment in this school that will pay dividends far into the future.”

Burnham and Sprunk are both SoBA graduates who studied finance and accounting. They never met while they were students at UM, but connected thanks to service with the UM Foundation and a shared passion for advancing SoBA. Several months ago, they met up in Oregon, where they both live, and conversation circled around to the importance of leadership at their beloved alma mater.

“All things flow from the leader of an organization,” says Burnham. “The school has a great reputation, built over the last 30 years with Larry at the helm, and now we need to find the next great leader to move us forward.”

Sprunk agrees, adding, “Mark was really the catalyst of the idea, but we both feel strongly about leadership and want to give the new dean the ability to drive the advancements that are necessary for the future.”

Both men know a little something about leadership, having built successful careers on the backs of their UM educations. Burnham is the director of finance of Hawthorn Retirement Group LLC, a senior housing company, and managing principal of OZ Cap LLC, an advisory firm. Sprunk, after starting his career at PricewaterhouseCoopers, joined NIKE Inc. in 1993 and has been with the company in various management positions ever since, currently serving as chief operating officer.

They have both been engaged with SoBA as volunteers, sharing their professional experience with the Business Advisory Council (Sprunk), the UM Foundation Board of Trustees (Burnham) and with students as guest lecturers. “I love spending time on campus, especially spending time in the classroom with students,” Sprunk said. “I am a big believer in giving back to the communities that help make you, guide you and develop you.”

Although Burnham and Sprunk spearheaded the idea of endowing the dean’s position, their connection to UM is truly a family affair.

Burnham has more than a dozen family members who are alums or associates of UM, including wife Cheryl, a graduate of UM’s Skaggs School of Pharmacy; brother Charlie, also a SoBA alum; sister Mary Burnham Alke, an anthropology major; and Cheryl’s father, John Gordon, who received both a bachelor’s degree in history and his law degree here.

Sprunk’s mother, Rachel Sprunk Smith, was a 1984 UM grad and a longtime volunteer for the University and the UM Alumni Association. His son, Cooper, is currently a business major and plays on the Grizzly football team.

The Burnham family has generously supported faculty teaching and research at both SoBA and the School of Pharmacy. The Sprunk family has given broadly to many areas on campus, including Grizzly Athletics and the College of Visual and Performing Arts, where they created the Rachel Sprunk Smith Scholarship.

“Missoula has a special place in our hearts, and we look forward to many more moments of impact,” Burnham said. Recruitment for SoBA’s new dean is ongoing, with new leadership expected in place by July 1, 2016.
Changes are happening in SoBA business education that reflect, and even anticipate, the changes in the global business environment. That’s why the Dean’s Report for 2015-2016 is dedicated to providing a snapshot of how SoBA embraces change.

This past year business magazines have published numerous articles about how business is going through “tumultuous times.” The slow growth of global markets, the slowdown of manufacturing and trade and the low price of oil have made us realize that there is no such thing as “business as usual.” Just as the business world is forced to deal with change, business education is doing the same. There is no such thing as “business education as usual” at UM either.

High Tech-High Touch

One of the key changes taking place is in the business curriculum. A recent example is the proposed Masters of Business Analytics (see page 12). According to Associate Dean Terri Herron in a Missoulian article last fall, SoBA maintains “a stable core curriculum, incorporating new research, but focusing on business principles that remain steady over time. SoBA enriches the basic curriculum to respond to current trends in the workplace by augmenting this core with seminar series, new courses and certificates.” Herron describes SoBA students and faculty as being “highly engaged with working professionals. One of the things that makes SoBA such a special place is that we don’t just live in an ivory tower and think we have it all figured out.”

“We know what we are, but we know not what we may become”

— William Shakespeare
SoBA has always prided itself on its interaction with the business community, and that interaction has substantially grown over the years. On any given day, SoBA has an impressive list of business practitioners serving as guest speakers or competition judges or recruiters. From small business owners to entrepreneurs, to corporate partners, to nonprofit and government administrators, SoBA creates opportunities inside and outside the classroom for professionals to connect with students. These professionals provide relevance and authenticity to the topics covered in class and play an important role in business education.

Integrating Education—Encouraging Different Perspectives

SoBA added to its course offerings to attract students from other disciplines. Students from across campus bring a different perspective to business classes, enriching everyone’s classroom experience. For years students from other majors have enjoyed taking introductory business classes or earning a Certificate in Entertainment Management. Now, they also can participate in SoBA study abroad offerings, earn the Sustainable Business Strategy Certificate, and explore a business minor. At the graduate level, SoBA offers a joint MBA with law, pharmacy and physical therapy.

Integration of students from other disciplines also takes place in extracurricular events. The “Up Til Dawn” group attracts students from across the campus. The primary focus of this group is to raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Emily Plant, Associate Professor, Marketing, is the advisor. This year the group raised $38,830. Other opportunities such as “Pursue Your Passions” and “UM’s Entrepreneurship Club” help students grow outside the classroom.

Faculty Involvement

Along with preparing students with relevant skill sets for their first professional position, SoBA faculty help students develop personal qualities useful in any business climate: self-reliance, critical thinking, personal responsibility, flexibility, and teamwork. In general SoBA faculty offer student coaching not found in every business school. A broader goal of business education is to empower students to prepare for whatever the future might bring. It is important that students know how to find a job after graduation. More importantly, though, they need to know how to survive “turbulent times” by anticipating and embracing change. SoBA faculty help students begin that journey through assignments and professional opportunities including client consulting projects, competitions and strategy presentations.

In an effort to recruit and retain such talented and dedicated faculty, Dean Gianchetta began a faculty support program several years ago. This faculty support is made possible through generous donations.

What class is this?

Discussion topics in today’s classroom would catapult most graduates of twenty years ago into a fictional, futuristic place. Students are now engaged in real-time podcasts and video streaming. They use multiple simultaneous communication platforms. For example, it is not uncommon to have a class Skype business executives in a corporate office, create a YouTube video that is viewed by corporate leaders hundreds of miles away, or have student presentations filmed and posted online to be evaluated on demand.

Cases for classroom discussions often are integrated into multiple classes, each class taking on one aspect of the case. Student discussion might also focus on 3-D printing, wearable technology, innovation clusters, the ethics of bit coin, new derivatives or the downside of sustainability. If it’s a current topic of concern in the business world, it is being discussed in a SoBA class. The outstanding quality of our graduates reflects their readiness to deal with change. It is obvious students are preparing to become the next generation of business leaders.

Helping Students Succeed

SCHOLARSHIPS

One way SoBA helps students succeed is through its successful scholarship program. With the participation of many generous donors, SoBA awarded 144 scholarships totaling $360,000 last year.

INTERNSHIPS

The SoBA Internship program has always been popular. It continues to grow; it is estimated approximately 80% of SoBA graduating seniors last year had some type of professional internship. Internships often lead to a professional position with an organization. For example, Breshia Hardy, MIS ’16, who received a permanent position with Deloitte in Seattle described her summer internship to a Missoulian reporter in the following way, “I spent the entire summer working on some of Deloitte’s top client accounts. I networked with professionals from the consultant to the partner level. I cannot speak highly enough of my experiences with MIS and with SoBA.” All SoBA students are encouraged to participate in an internship. Internships offer invaluable insight into student career choices.
The School of Business Administration at the University of Montana will help meet a growing workforce need when it launches its new master’s degree in business analytics this fall.

The Master of Science degree, a joint effort between marketing and management information systems, will combine new elements with several existing programs at UM. The core curriculum will include the study of business intelligence, big data analysis, business statistics, statistical computing, data mining and management, and communicating insights based on data analysis and associated decision-making. Program graduates will understand the fundamentals of statistics and programming with a strong foundation in business. They will be poised for successful careers working with data across multiple disciplines.

Demand for data analysts in the U.S. has skyrocketed in recent years. In 2013 alone, demand shot up 67 percent nationally, with local and regional employers also seeking graduates with data analytics experience. UM will be one of the first universities in the northwest to offer this type of degree, which is on the Board of Regents’ May agenda for final approval.

“The MSBA is very innovative and designed to deliver critical knowledge and skills for the technology-intensive business environment of today,” said Simona Stan, UM associate professor of marketing and the program’s director. “It serves a rapidly growing need in the marketplace and is likely to attract enrollment from both Montana business professionals who need to hone their business analytics skills and from out-of-state and international students.”

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Ten years ago, SoBA formalized its career development program because of the enthusiasm of SoBA’s Business Advisory Council. Today’s Career Development program, while true to its foundation, has retooled to keep up with the changes in recruiting. The program continues to offer workshops, practice interviews, resume critiques and recruiting events. Additionally it has expanded to prepare students for job seeking and working in this new business environment. Through a partnership with alumni and corporate recruiters, SoBA students continue to enjoy unlimited opportunities for networking and professional development.

Always Relevant

SoBA faculty and staff offer meaningful opportunities for students to learn and grow both in and beyond the classroom. If a student is interested, SoBA will provide the tools to help students succeed in reaching their professional goals. SoBA understands that tomorrow’s businesses can’t be built with the educational tools of yesterday. It understands that times will continue to change. SoBA is already anticipating what education might be like for baby Emma and the class of 2037. Stay tuned!
On Sarah Allen’s first day interning at Nike, she felt a bit intimidated. Out of the 150 interns working there last summer, she was the only one from Montana, and one of only a handful enrolled at a smaller state school instead of a “big name” university, like Yale or MIT. But she soon discovered she had nothing to worry about. “Once I got into it, I realized I was doing the exact same work, at their same level, or better,” said the senior, who will graduate with a finance degree in May. “I worked harder and I stayed extra hours when I needed to. One of the best things about the UM business school is that you have to do the work to be successful. People aren’t just going to give you a job because you’re entitled to it.” As an intern in Nike’s Global Operations and Technology Finance division, Allen took on the role of financial analyst. She built out financial forecasts and models, translating raw data on spreadsheets into concise summaries. Her hard work paid off, and this July, she’ll return to the Portland-area company as a full-time financial analyst, focusing on long-range planning for the Technology Finance division. She’s grateful for the support SoBA faculty provided her while she navigated her career search. “The faculty is one of the best things about UM,” she says. “They really care about you, and take the time to get to know you. They’ll always answer your questions about your career path and will stand behind you 100 percent. That’s not something you hear about all the time.”
Finance major, football player, successful intern. Harrison Greenberg (Finance ’16) knows a thing or two about time management. When he got the call to go to New York City to interview for a summer internship with Morgan Stanley, he calculated that he could spend 28 hours in the city before he had to return for football practice with the Grizzlies. Not only did he make it to practice, but he also nailed the interview and interned with Morgan Stanley over the summer. This is a very competitive internship. Last summer the company received approximately 90,000 applications for its approximately 1,000 positions. Greenberg had a busy summer working 70 hour weeks in Morgan Stanley’s Alternative Investment Partners program. He lived near Central Park with three other interns and gained valuable professional experience while making new friends. Greenberg received a full-time offer from Morgan Stanley, and, if he accepts, he will start in January 2017.

Willa Fogarty, MKTG ’16

When Willa Fogarty, MKTG ’16, started her internship at Pandora last summer, she didn’t have any problem fitting into the Oakland-based company’s open culture. Thanks to SoBA’s emphasis on honing students’ networking skills, she had plenty of experience striking up conversations with potential connections. “The business school gives you so many networking opportunities,” Fogarty says. “It really prepares you to talk to people and ask them interesting questions.” Fogarty interned in the music streaming service’s sales and marketing department. Co-workers often took advantage of the knowledge she’d learned through SoBA’s digital marketing courses. “They were rolling out this new blog section of Pandora, and they asked me for advice on Google Analytics, content creation, building a website and blogging in general,” Fogarty said. “I was able to offer real-world advice because I was one of the only interns who knew about those things.” Fogarty also managed a larger project throughout the summer, a client-facing newsletter aimed at keeping Pandora top-of-mind with the company’s main advertisers. She guided the project from inception to near-completion (she had to return to Missoula for fall semester before its launch). “It was a really great experience, and I learned how to execute a project from inception to launch,” she said.
First place: $15,000, Purus, UM MBA student Chad Miller of Florence, MT: Purus is a Montana-based company dedicated to engineering a sustainable wastewater treatment solution for the oil and gas industry.

Second place: $7,500, Doces Brasil, UM MBA student Leo Esteves of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Doces Brasil is an artisan chocolatier company in Missoula that produces and sells high-end Brazilian recipe desserts to retail and wholesale customers.

Third place: $5,000, GeoFli, UM MBA student Kyle Pucko of Webster, NY. GeoFli is specifically designed for colleges and universities to create multiple versions of the same URL targeting an exact geographic location, with no coding required.

Fourth place: $2,500, United Methanol Corporation, UM student Stephen Jenkins of Bigfork, MT. United Methanol Corporation is a clean technology company focusing on the conversion of low-value woody biomass into high purity methanol and liquid carbon dioxide.

Best Undergraduate Business Plan Award: Item Bounty, UM-Western student Christopher Casties of Irvine, CA and Montana State University student Mike Maher of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Item Bounty is a web application that provides an interactive community of requesters and finders. A requester is a user who inputs the specifications of a product or service they’re looking for online and the fee they are willing to pay for someone to find it.

Elevator Pitch (60-second team presentation): $2,500, Ndigena, UM MBA students Thomas Kurdy of Great Falls and Rachel Strasshofer of Missoula. Ndigena produces powerful digital content that includes video production in a lean, documentary style that triggers a consumer’s emotional connection.

Runner-up Elevator Pitch: $1,000, Leo Esteves, – Doces Brasil.

The following special awards were given to teams or individuals based on specific criteria:

Brandon Speth Passion, Poise, and Charisma Award: $1,000, Doces Brasil, Leo Esteves.

People’s Choice Award: $2,500, Purus – Chad Miller.

Polymath Award: $2,500 Leg Up Innovations, UM student Chantanelle Nava of Shepherd, MT. Leg Up Innovations makes life easier for people on crutches. The apparatus attaches to a standard crutch to create a stable, adjustable footrest to place an injured leg on.

Most Dynamic and Scalable Award: $1,000, Purus – Chad Miller.

Blackstone Launchpad Innovation Award: $1,000, Dungeon Emporium, UM student William Milligan of Havre, MT. Dungeon Emporium is a website to distribute various products designed for use with the Dungeons and Dragons tabletop role-playing game.

Manufactured Product Award: $1,000, United Methanol Corporation, Stephen Jenkins.

Feasibility Award: $1,000, Monter Consulting, UM student Katherine Vincent of Missoula. Monter Consulting is a full-service online marketing agency offering web development and graphic design services with expertise in search engine rank strategy.

The University of Montana hosted its annual Fall Startup Pitch Competition on December 14, 2015, to an enthusiastic crowd at the Gallagher Business Building. Blackstone LaunchPad and the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs hosted the event.

The overall winner of the competition and $1,500 was Evin Özer, Master of Computer Science student, of Montana Root Applications who pitched a smartphone application SolarScreen.

The award for “Most Exciting Startup Idea” went to Johanna Ciampa, a student of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, for her idea, EthnoDance.

Winner of the most compelling live presentation went to Graydon Myhre, management major, who presented his pitch toward supporting sustainable transportation by providing a safe, cost-effective method for longboard, skateboard and scooter users to secure their boards.
Enrollment numbers indicate that the newly minted business minor is popular at UM. Students across campus have been eagerly waiting for the opportunity to enhance their major programs with business knowledge. Parks and Recreation Management major Shelby Gregory is one example of how students are positioning their careers with the help of the business minor. After graduation, Gregory plans to build a program that will take a new approach to science lessons and outdoor education – and turn her passion for the outdoors into a business.

Pursue Your Passions, a program launched at the University of Montana in Fall 2015 and continued again during Spring 2016, was initiated in order to encourage more students—and more female students in particular—to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career path, regardless of their program of study or major. Roughly 70% of start-up businesses are started by men; anecdotal evidence from UM’s business pitch competition in Spring 2015 showed that only a handful (if that) of the pitches were by women.

Sponsored by the School of Business Administration, the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs (MADE), and the Women’s Foundation of Montana, the effort was spearheaded by Professor Jakki Mohr along with an advisory committee comprised of Paul Gladen and Jenn Stephens of the Blackstone Launchpad, Dori Gilels of MADE and Mamalode, and Professor Suzanne Tilleman.

Each semester’s program included:
- a kick-off event and a closing event featuring high-profile, successful women entrepreneurs—for example, Debbie McWhinney at the fall kick-off and Lisa Stone at the fall closing event;
- a series of events and workshops to bring participants together to hear inspirational stories from high-profile women who have successfully “pursued their passions” and developed a career around those passions;
- pairing each participant with a mentor (highly successful entrepreneurs, both men and women, from Montana’s business community) paired on the basis of common passions/interests— the mentor/student pairings were identified as a high point of the program by participants;
- self-study on starting a business or non-profit using on-line course modules from Udacity and Value Proposition Design;
- individualized workshops at the Blackstone Launchpad for students to hone their ideas.

This program pioneered free on-site childcare at UM for each event, which in and of itself received accolades from students who participated, the business entrepreneurs, and even faculty! Thirty students participated in the fall program of which roughly 65% were women. Many participants came from the School of Business Administration, while others were from exercise science, chemistry, humanities, dance, parks/tourism/recreation management, engineering, psychology, social work, and human biological sciences.

Qualitative feedback from the students and mentors from the fall conveyed a high level of enthusiasm. As importantly, results from the fall program showed a positive impact on women’s participation in the Start-Up Pitch Competition, where roughly 42% participants were women, as opposed to 24% in the previous year. Of the women participating, they said that participating in the Pursue your Passions program gave them the confidence to do so! Given this inaugural effort, and the inspirational and valuable impact, students and non-students alike are eager to see this type of program continue at UM.

Passion is contagious. Being around others who are working on something they are passionate about seemed to be a damn good idea.

I liked hearing from women who were very passionate about what they do and successful in the workforce and are out in their respective fields doing what they love.

The guest speakers were very inspirational, as they have had real life experiences in business. I also found their passion for women so inspiring as well. I appreciated the advocacy for female equality within entrepreneurship.

Childcare was a great service for numerous participants and demonstrated the University’s awareness of and commitment to providing support to parents of all ages who want to engage in entrepreneurship.

Turning Passion into Profit

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James Fay and David Brewer are both graduating seniors in MIS. When it came time to select a project for the capstone course Strategic Venture Management, taught by Professor Bambi Douma, they both chose the data analytics team as part of the Libby Branding Project.

Fay, Brewer and other SoBA business students worked with Partners Creative, a local marketing and public relations firm, on a project to help the town of Libby rebrand itself as a desirable place to live. Libby was listed as a Superfund site because of decades of prosperous asbestos and vermiculite mining. The SoBA team analyzed large amounts of data about Libby. Mentored by John Chandler, who teaches courses in big data and marketing analytics for SoBA, the team conducted a similarity analysis of Libby using a data set that included every zip code in the U.S.

By the conclusion of their role in the project, Brewer and Fay had participated in brainstorming sessions, complex data analysis, professional presentations, market research in the field, radio and newspaper interviews and project management.

“This was the most difficult and most interesting project in all my undergraduate work at UM...”
- David Brewer, MIS ’16

“The winners of the second annual UM Northwestern Mutual Scholarship Sales Competition received special recognition and scholarship awards at a reception in the Gallagher Business Building.

The $1,000 first-prize scholarship went to Nancy Wilson, who has dual graduate majors in business (MBA) and pharmacy (PharmD). The second-place scholarship of $750 went to Nick Kolendich (marketing). The third-place scholarship of $250 went to Ashley Olsen (management and international business).

The Northwestern Mutual Scholarship Sales Competition was open to all business majors and drew a great deal of interest from students and faculty alike.

According to Mike Butler, Director of Development for Northwestern Mutual, “Sponsoring education is a great way to give back to students in this state. The competition provides an opportunity for students to practice important communication skills they learn in the classroom. Selling is about establishing relationships, framing information and asking for business. These are the types of skills that any student benefits from honing. Our firm is pleased to be able to reward students who are willing to put themselves forward and compete.”

Communication Skills Pay Off for the WINNERS OF NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL SCHOLARSHIP SALES COMPETITION

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- David Brewer, MIS ’16

“Business classes at SoBA prepared us well for most aspects of the project, such as creating professional presentations and writing powerful documents,” Fay affirmed. “Working as a representative of a public institution in partnership with a public relations firm as part of a professional data analytics consulting team was a highlight of my education.”

SOBA STUDENTS USE Big Data & Business Skills TO HELP Rebrand Libby, MT
Associate Professor of Marketing Suzanne Tilleman presented a new project to students in her Sustainable Business Practices course. Working directly with Bayern Brewing, she asked teams of students to develop ways to expand the local business’s recycling efforts.

Bayern Brewing’s recycling program began with exchanging their six-pack holders for trade-in value on beer or merchandise. In 2010, Bayern took this a step further by recycling its own glass, making it the first brewery in Montana to recycle its entire packaging material. Participants use a Bayern Ecopack to recycle glass and get a refund for bottles returned to the brewery.

Encouraged to think creatively, each student team then brainstormed ways to increase the rate of bottle returns within a particular channel, such as residents, curbside recycling, community efforts and businesses. The Bayern representative and Tilleman chose three of the ideas on which they wanted each team to focus.

In the final presentations, teams expanded on their ideas and provided Bayern with a proposal. This assignment taught students how to apply what they’re learning in class by working with a significant business in the community.

Working as an information systems technology consultant can be fast-paced and fascinating, but “somewhat mysterious to students who are pondering going into the profession,” according to David Firth, professor of management information systems at the University of Montana School of Business Administration. This fall Firth took his students to Advanced Technology Group (ATG) Missoula Solutions Center to demystify how the 60-plus technology consultants at ATG spend their days.

“Sometimes it’s hard for students to see outside the classroom,” Firth said. “It’s easy to get caught up in homework, intramural sports and volunteer activities. Visiting a technology company can be transformative.”

When Firth’s students see young professionals a year or two out of college working for clients throughout the world, they often have a moment of “self-actualization,” he said.

“They can see themselves in the consultants’ shoes,” he said. “Students may be shorter or taller – or have blond hair instead of brown – but they’re not that different from me. I could be a technology consultant, also.”

ATG has grown rapidly since it opened the Missoula office in 2011. Out of more than 60 employees, over half are fairly recent graduates from UM. ATG is a high-tech firm that does business with multibillion dollar companies throughout the world – including CenturyLink, Atlassian and Sungard. ATG’s headquarters are in Kansas City, with offices in Missoula, Denver, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Dallas. Missoula now is the largest ATG office.
WHATEVER YOU’RE DOING, KEEP IT UP!

Firms attending the recruiting event for the accounting and finance industries were duly impressed by how professional School of Business Administration (SoBA) students were.

Students traded in their jeans and sneakers for suits and dress shoes for the event on Wednesday, March 16, in the Gallagher Business Building. Eleven firms were in attendance, two of which were new to recruiting at SoBA. The weeks leading up to this event and other recruiting events that happened this semester were full of workshops prepping students on topics ranging from resume writing to interview techniques.

It must have worked because several employers commented on the students’ preparedness, with one employer stating, “Whatever you’re doing, keep it up!”

NEW COMPANIES JOIN STUDENT & EMPLOYER NETWORKING

Spring 2016 was busy with employers in the Gallagher Building recruiting students for internships and full-time positions.

In addition to three major-specific formal networking receptions, students also had the opportunity to meet with employers during Employer Information Booths. These events happen three times each semester.

Employer Information Booths are casual career fairs held in the lobby of the Gallagher Building. In between classes, students learn about career opportunities from representatives, many of them UM alumni, of local and national firms. Of the 30 companies who participated in information booths this spring, five were new to recruiting at SoBA.

To complement these events, SoBA offers students several opportunities throughout the semester to meet with employers one-on-one, explore career options and develop relationships before they apply for jobs and internships. It also provides workshops that encourage lifelong career skills.
School of Business Administration (SoBA) students dressed to impress for the 7th Annual Meet the Firms event on September 15 in the Gallagher Business Building. Eleven firms were in attendance, and the event was broken up into two sessions. One session was for sophomores just dipping their toes into the world of networking and recruiting. Another was for juniors, seniors and graduate students hoping to land internships and full-time positions.

The event was a success as a total of 130 students brought together all that they had learned and made the most of this opportunity to network with recruiters and progress in their journey to become young professionals.

While our students go to a variety of companies throughout the country for internships and full-time positions, the following companies hire a sizeable number of students each year. Listed are the firms who hired the largest number of students last year (both internships and full-time):

- KPMG .......... 34
- PwC ............ 18
- ATG ............ 14
- Moss Adams... 8
- Fast ............ 6
The mission of the University of Montana is to ensure student success, and nobody has had a bigger effect on students over the last 30 years than Larry and Dee Dee Gianchetta.

To recognize their support and guidance, we are proud to name our new student services center the Larry and Dee Dee Gianchetta Student Success Center.

The center will consolidate the important services we provide for students into one physical space.

**THESE SERVICES INCLUDE:**
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT
- STUDENT ADVISING
- INTERNSHIPS
- GRADUATE PROGRAMS
- SCHOLARSHIPS

Your support will honor the outstanding impact of Larry and Dee Dee’s leadership on SoBA and help ensure students continue to find success while in school and upon graduation.

To inquire about a naming opportunity for one of the director offices, conference rooms, or student spaces, contact KATE JENNINGS 406-243-4569 or kate.jennings@mso.umt.edu, Senior Director of Development for the School of Business Administration.
In February, UMEM students participated in the BIG SKY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL. After volunteering a few hours, students were encouraged to attend the film screenings as well as panels discussing film marketing, production and public relations.

**FEBRUARY 19 AND 20 | BIG SKY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL**

In February, UMEM students participated in the BIG SKY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL. After volunteering a few hours, students were encouraged to attend the film screenings as well as panels discussing film marketing, production and public relations.

**MARIA BRUNNER**
Montana native and co-founder of the UMEM program, is the owner of InSight Management, a marketing firm located in Scottsdale, AZ. InSight provides marketing services for various tours, festivals, fairs, and other entertainment events.

**DAMON METZNER**
New Orleans native and a UM graduate. During his time in Missoula, Metzner founded two Missoula-based production companies, was the exclusive talent buyer for two Missoula venues and has toured as a drummer, performing in venues including Bonnaroo and the Gorge in Washington. Metzner now works as the Marketing Director for 7S Management in Denver, CO.

**ROB BECKHAM**
UM graduate, has spent the last 20 years as an agent for many notable country artists. He is the Co-Head of the Nashville office and is responsible for the daily touring, television, motion picture, literary and sponsorship opportunities for Brad Paisley, Rascal Flatts, Blake Shelton, Reba McEntire, Gary Allan, The Band Perry, Chris Young, Jerrod Niemann as well as others.

**MIKE MCGINLEY**
UM alumnus, founded SRO Consultants, an entertainment business strategy and consulting firm twenty-five years ago. This group has fostered close business relationships with almost every major talent agency, management firm, and concert promoter both domestically and internationally. McGinley has been an investor and advisor to many early-stage startups, including Facebook, Skype, and Napster.

**NOAH BRIER**
The Co-founder of Percolate, a system of record for marketing. He has founded many other start-ups, built a brand research tool called Brand Tags, and was the head of planning and strategy at The Barbarian Group. Prior to that, Brier worked as a strategist at Naked Communications, a leading provider of creative solutions to communications problems.

**NICK PARISH**
The Editorial Director of North America at Contagious Communications. An award-winning writer and editor, he established Contagious in North America in 2010. Parish runs every aspect of its North American business, including client-based consulting projects like the groundbreaking Project Fly initiative with Mondelez International.
Fall of 2015, UMEM kicked off a small concert series intended to bring midday music to students, faculty and staff. An idea born out of a love for NPR’s Tiny Desk Concerts, UMEM staffers Becca Gairrett, Jen Keller and Darah Fogarty decided to create their own version and, on October 15th, produced the first 10 minute concert on the main landing in the lobby of the Gallagher Business Building.

Each week, they produce a tiny concert on the stairs, bringing in new musicians each week to breathe life into the lunch hour. Over the semester, the turnout has grown. Now, students, faculty and staff gather in the lobby to support the new musician each week, proving that entertainment is a powerful tool in building community.

One of the most important aspects of the UMEM program is its students, both past and present. At the end of February, Damon Metzner, a former UMEM student, returned to Missoula to share his expertise with current Entertainment Management students through a marketing project involving a Missoula performance of the band Galactic. Metzner currently works for 7S Management, an artist management company based in Denver. 7S works with artists like Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats, Shakey Graves and Galactic. Leading up to Galactic’s Missoula show at the Wilma Theater on February 25, Metzner invited Entertainment Management students to get involved. Students hung posters, passed out handbills and were given the opportunity to design their own marketing materials. In return, they were invited to attend the show for half of the original ticket price.

Additionally, Metzner and Mike Morelli connected with University of Montana jazz student, Elijah Wynn. Wynn is a member of local jazz band Erroneous Thunk. As a way to teach students the importance of radio promotion in advancing a show, Metzner and the students orchestrated a live broadcast with The Trail where Erroneous Thunk rearranged and performed some of Galactic’s most popular songs on air. In return, the local jazz band was invited to open for Galactic at the Wilma.

Sixteen UMEM students attended the Pollstar Conference, in San Francisco. In exchange for free registration, students volunteered their time helping with various aspects of the conference. In addition to attending professional panels and hearing from the best and brightest in the entertainment industry, students also had access to excellent networking opportunities and exclusive showcases. Of the 16 students who attended, 8 walked away with job or internship offers. Read Anna’s story to learn more.

ANNA’S STORY

“Pollstar Live! 2016 was by far the best college experience I have ever had. I met at least one hundred professionals in the entertainment industry. I counted how many business cards I collected and emailed in one day… 42 people. I also passed out 6 resumes and about 20 business cards. Apart from the networking I did, this experience was incredibly useful because this was my first real introduction into the entertainment world. I am proud to have represented the University of Montana and the UMEM Program. Experiences like this are the reason I am going to school. They remind me that my education is valuable. I am so very grateful to have met so many wonderful people. I left Pollstar inspired and more passionate than ever before.” - Anna Renz, UMEM student
Led by Professor Shawn Clouse, MIS, this intensive 24 day program examined international business, focusing on business sustainability practices and issues in New Zealand and Sydney, Australia. The whirlwind trip included a homestay in Motueka and a winery tour and introduction to winery operations, business strategies and long-term planning and marketing. On the last leg of the trip, they flew to Sydney, Australia, and visited the International College of Management, where they learned about Australian business from guest lecturers and toured Sydney landmarks.

GERMANY & ITALY

SoBA students were joined by MSU students this year while learning about business and life in Germany and Italy during summer semester 2015. They explored the stock exchange in Frankfurt, toured the Audi manufacturing plant in Neckarsulm, the Beretta Company in Brescia, and even visited the World’s Fair in Milan.

These unique, week-long, intensive-study courses, hosted by the European Business School and University of Brescia, allowed Montana students the opportunity to learn about international business in distinctive settings while also experiencing the magic of immersion in German and Italian cultures.

ROMANIA

Last summer graduate students studied in Sibiu, a medieval town in Transylvania. One of the most exciting aspects of this program is that students complete mini internships with local subsidiaries of multinational companies. Completing a project and presenting to managers allowed the students to apply their business knowledge in an international setting and expand their learning. Everyone involved in this program is eagerly awaiting the next trip.

NEW ZEALAND

Led by Professor Shawn Clouse, MIS, this intensive 24 day program examined international business, focusing on business sustainability practices and issues in New Zealand and Sydney, Australia.

The whirlwind trip included a homestay in Motueka and a winery tour and introduction to winery operations, business strategies and long-term planning and marketing. On the last leg of the trip, they flew to Sydney, Australia, and visited the International College of Management, where they learned about Australian business from guest lecturers and toured Sydney landmarks.
UM MARKETING STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In March, five members of the University of Montana chapter of the American Marketing Association traveled to New Orleans to participate in the 38th annual International Collegiate Conference.

Nearly 2,000 students from 275 schools gathered to share chapter best practices, test their marketing skills in competitions and network with peers and prospective employers. In addition to participating in workshops and lectures on topics ranging from “The Hidden Power of Brands” to “The Future of Advertising is Now.” UM students competed in the Marketing Strategy Competition.

The conference was attended by Nick Kolendich, Vickie Rectenwald, Liz Sicheri, Lia Sbisa and Shelton Todd, along with faculty advisor Associate Professor Emily Plant.

Up ‘til Dawn is a student-run, student-lead organization that partners with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Students raised funds for the hospital, and stayed up all night on November 5 to celebrate the work they put in.

The 2015 Executive Board and team captains worked hard at fundraising and planning the event. This year the group raised $38,830, and an astounding $95,352 since the chapter was founded in 2013!
Congratulations to the University of Montana’s American Indian Business Leaders chapter for winning the 2016 University AIBL Chapter of the Year and for placing third in the 2016 University AIBL Business Plan Competition! This year’s 22nd Annual National AIBL Leadership conference was held at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino in Chandler, AZ. There were over 125 students attending the conference this year. The National AIBL office was able to provide the students with entertainment after the conference starting at the Main Event Entertainment Center in Tempe, AZ on Thursday night. On Friday evening, the students attended an Arizona Diamondbacks game at Chase Field in Phoenix, AZ, where the DBacks played the Chicago Cubs. On Saturday evening, after the awards banquet, students attended a live concert featuring Supaman aka Christian Parrish, a Native American rap artist from the Crow tribe of Montana. This year’s event was very influential with several AIBL chapters going the extra mile to bring assistance back to their Native American communities. The National AIBL Office will be working hard over the next year to make sure that the National AIBL Leadership Conference will be bigger and better for years to come!

**BETA ALPHA PSI Earns Superior Chapter Status for 13th Consecutive Year**

The School of Business Administration’s Delta Kappa Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) was internationally recognized as a Superior Chapter for the thirteenth consecutive school year by the National Offices of Beta Alpha Psi. Recognition as a Superior Chapter comes from the Beta Alpha Psi board of directors and is a significant accomplishment that indicates student members have far exceeded the baseline requirements of Beta Alpha Psi in the areas of academics, professionalism and leadership.

President Barret Cook and VP of Prof. Events Perri Taylor went to the BAP National Conference in August in Milwaukee, WI, where they networked with hundreds of business professionals and members from other chapters around the U.S. There they attended the KPMG-sponsored “National Literacy Day” and provided educational activities to a first-grade class at a Milwaukee inner-city school.

“If you ask me, the reason that we have attained Superior status 13 years in a row is because of the constant support of the SoBA staff and faculty and the amazing work ethic of the UM students,” said Cook. “We are truly a special chapter.”
SOBA
Finance Students
ONCE AGAIN
Place 2nd in
CFA RESEARCH
INSTITUTE CHALLENGE

A team of four SoBA finance students took second place at the 2015-16 Spokane Regional of the CFA Institute Research Challenge, marking the third year in a row that the UM team placed in the competition. Team members were Sarah Allen, Nathan Barry, Brandon Simpson and Peter Williams. Their industry mentor was Jon Putnam of the Montana Board of Investments and faculty mentor was Professor Tony Crawford.

The students prepared a report initiating investment guidance on the publicly traded company Clearwater Paper Corporation (CLW). They initiated a “buy” on Clearwater Paper, highlighting CLW’s strong industry performance and recent capital improvements that should result in improved operating performance and higher margins in the future.

Finance Club members Brandon Simpson (left) and Peter Williams (center) with faculty advisor, Tony Crawford.

DEAN’S 2015-2016
STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Robert Gauthier, American Indian Business Leaders
Marley Tanner, American Indian Business Leaders
Tylor Willis, At Large
Daniel Dada, At Large
Julia Upshaw, At Large
Libby Harris, Beta Alpha Psi
Parker Lund, Beta Alpha Psi
Ryan Hover, Finance Club
Zach Raftopoulous, Finance Club
Nick Kolendich, UM American Marketing Association
Alexis Schreder, UM American Marketing Association
Emily Eicholtz, Montana Information Systems Association
Cody Younkin, Montana Information Systems Association
Simeon Woods, Master of Business Administration
Donna Weathers, Master of Business Administration
Garrett Olson, Master of Accountancy
Kyra Cenis, Master of Accountancy
Darah Fogarty, UM Entertainment Management
Jen Keller, UM Entertainment Management

MISA CHAPTER
Receives Award
AT CONFERENCE

Erika Disney and Emily Eicholtz, the 2016 President and Vice-President of MISA, attended the National AIS Conference held at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. They networked with other chapters and gained insights into improving and growing the UM chapter. MISA received the Distinguished Chapter Award for the 2014-2015 year, which Disney and Eicholtz were delighted to accept.
The MAcct program goes beyond the fundamentals of accounting to provide a truly enriched educational experience. As a MAcct graduate, I have gained a deeper appreciation for accounting concepts, theories and principles and am confident that the knowledge and skills I have acquired have positioned me for success at the next level.

ZEFFIE HEATON
MASTERS OF ACCOUNTANCY ’16

“The MAcct program goes beyond the fundamentals of accounting to provide a truly enriched educational experience. As a MAcct graduate, I have gained a deeper appreciation for accounting concepts, theories and principles and am confident that the knowledge and skills I have acquired have positioned me for success at the next level.”
“The MBA program at the University of Montana brought me the in-class experience and the networking I needed as a foreign student to succeed in the U.S.”
LISA STONE, the former chief executive officer and co-founder of BlogHer, Inc., the leading cross-platform media network for women in social media, delivered the Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Executive Lecture on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at the University of Montana. Stone, a 1984 graduate of Missoula’s Hellgate High School presented “Developing Community” to a packed audience in the University Center Ballroom. Stone shared the BlogHer success story and how she built a business using social media. As an entrepreneur, she grew an idea for a grassroots conference into a leading independent publisher of women in blogs and social media with $30 million in annual revenue and a proprietary technology platform. In 2014, Stone merged BlogHer with SheKnows Media, creating the No. 1 women’s lifestyle digital media company with more than 80 million monthly visitors and over 245 million social followers. As SheKnows Media’s chief community officer, Stone moderated a 2015 Town Hall meeting between President Barack Obama and 250 American working women. She also executive produced BlogHer’s conference series, the world’s largest for women in social media. Stone’s honors include a Harvard Nieman Fellowship, a Fortune Most Powerful Entrepreneur Award and recognition as a Fast Company 100 Most Creative People in Business. She has written for The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Oakland Tribune and The Huffington Post, among other publications. 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.

QuestMT: A CONFERENCE ON Marketing Analytics LAUNCHES EXECUTIVE EDUCATION AT SOBA

The inaugural QuestMT executive education conference dealing with cutting-edge marketing analytics strategies took place late September at the main UM campus. Tim O’Leary (B.S. ’81), longtime friend of UM, author and co-founder of R2C Group, was the driving force in the design of the conference. A total of eight business organizations sponsored the event, including the two primary sponsors R2C Group and the University of Montana. Joan Giese, UM professor of marketing, served as conference coordinator. Other members of the conference planning and execution team included Jakki Mohr, UM professor of marketing, and Mario Schulzke, assistant VP of marketing at UM. John Chandler, UM clinical professor of marketing, was an invited panelist. Many of the 120 conference attendees commented that Missoula was an “inspirational environment” for executive education and that UM provided an “ideal educational setting.” Panelists and presenters were experts in the field of marketing analytics, primarily from the Seattle and Portland areas.
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.

Guest Speakers: 2015-2016

- Alan Adams, Patagonia • Fran Albrecht, Providence Montana Health Foundation and Member of Montana University System Board of Regents • Maggie Angle, Environmental Issues in Healthcare • Kari Asleson, KPMG • Rob Beckham, William Morris • Holly Biehl, Clark Fork Coalition, The World of Non-Profit Marketing • Troy Blakely, Agency for the Performing Arts • Jenny Bodenlos, Nike • Michael Boehme, Bonner Property Development • Molly Bradford, GatherBoard and MissoulaEvents.net • Mark Bretz, Bretz RV & Marine • Noah Brier, Percolate • Maria Brunner, Insight Management • Scott Burke, First Security Bank • Mark Burnham, Hawthorn Retirement Group • Andrew Burrington, onXmaps • Mark Camillo, CSC Security • Brent Campbell, WGM Group • Mindy Carver, PayneWest Insurance • Philip Churchill, POSSIBLE Worldwide • Kendra Clark, KPMG • Mike Combo, Anderson ZurMuehlen • Brooke Corr, Community Dispute Resolution Center of Missoula • Reannon Crider, KPMG • Sheri Daviddoff, LMG Security • Carey Davis, ATG • Rodel Delfin, Red Bull Records • Ben DeMarois, PwC • Blake DeShaw, Anglepoint • Suzanne Elfstrom, Partners Creative • Matt Ellis, Missoula Osprey Baseball Organization • Jason Erickson, Treasure State Bank • Joe Fanguy, MontTEC Incubator • Pri Fernando, US Bank • Elyse Finnegam, PwC • Michael FitzGerald, Submittable • Dr. Kerrie Fleming, Ashridge Business School • Eric Fulton, Treasure State Internet & Telegraph • Katrina Galas, Repucom Canada • Dave Glowacki, Kent State Tuscarawas • Ben Goodman, FAST Enterprises • Elke Govertsen, MamaLode • Jessica Grenchan, Compassion & Choices • Nicole Hagerman Miller, Biomimicry 3.8 • Richard Harjes, Next Frontier Capital • Kent Haslam, University of Montana • Susan Hay Patrick, United Way of Missoula County • Michelle Huie, VIM &VIGR Stylish Compression Socks, Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. • Whitney Jaroch, Anglepoint • Tara Jensen, Montana Budget and Policy Center • Jessica Kato, Tamarack Management, Inc. • Kevin Lane Keller, Dartmouth College • Lyndee Kemp, Hall& Partners • Renee King, Payne West Insurance • Bryan Knaff, TBN Entertainment • Peter Lancy, Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, PC. • Luke Langbehn, McKinstry • Kristen Lothrop, Partners Creative • Eric Manegold, Zonar Systems • Ralph Marchetta, Phoenix Suns • Ronnie Martin, Waggner Edstrom Communications • Patrick Marzullo, Wieden+Kennedy • Jade McBride, The Ranch at Rock Creek • Andrea McCarthy, Monster Worldwide • Dawn McGee, Goodworks Ventures • Mike McGinley, SRO Consultants and Citizen Net • Courtney McKee, Headframe Spirits • Spider McKnight, Six Pony Hitch • Josh Milburn, the Minimalists • Jenny Mish, Business Sustainability Consultant • Bjorn Nabozney, Big Sky Brewing Company • Ryan Nicedomus, the Minimalists • Blake Nicolazzo, Bonfire Branding & Communications • Tim O’Leary, R2C Group • Matthew Olson, MO3 Consulting • Mary Olson, IBM Cloud & Managed Service Providers • Kevin OReilly, Orbital Shift • Scott Osburn, Highland Concerts • Scott Pankratz, Ecology Project International • Nick Parish, Contagious • Daryl Paulson, BioScience Laboratories • Geoff Peddicord, Community Medical Center • Geoff Pepos, StoryClock • Alex Philp, Upstream Research Inc. • Will Price, Next Frontier Capital • Amanda Read, Read Mobile Marketing • Abby Reno, City Brew Coffee Company • James Salisbury, Treasure State Bank • Jeremy Sauter, Paramount Pictures • Kymberly Shappee, UBS • Spencer Sheehan, PwC • Ryan Shepherd, National Equipment Register • Arnie Sherman, Global Development Holdings • Olivia Shjeflo, Honest Tea • John Soss, Jam Productions • Danny Spitzer, Bren Events Center • Eric Sprunk, Nike • Mike Steinberg, Roxy Theater and International Wildlife Film Festival • Tom Stockburger, WorkEthic Group • Stefanie Strack, Nike and Hurley • Mary Gail Sullivan, NorthWestern Energy • Karen Tempkin, Consultant • Christopher Tillemann, Consultant • Ryan Watson, onXmaps

DEAN’S REPORT 2015-2016 32
When a patient is in a critical state, it can be hard to hear alarms over the noise that fills a busy ER. Dr. Alistair MacDonald at St. Patrick Hospital came up with a solution to this problem: a device capable of silencing any machines that are connected when an alarm is activated. He chose a device called the Chipsee Beaglebone 7-inch touchscreen. The device was simple and cost-effective, but it had exposed hardware. In order for Dr. MacDonald’s team to test the device safely and keep it sanitary in the medical environment, they needed a case to enclose it. That’s where SoBA marketing student Eric Hinshaw came in. With his knowledge of computer-aided design and 3D printing, Hinshaw became an integral member of the development team. Hinshaw spent spring semester creating conceptual designs for the case and meticulously measuring the device. Once he had an exact prototype, he printed it at the Mansfield Library using medical-grade black plastic filament. Dr. MacDonald’s team also recruited the help of students in UM’s computer science department to write the accompanying software, helping the project further along into the development phase. Perhaps one day soon this device will be found in hospitals worldwide.

University of Montana accounting students won Best Student Project at the 17th Annual AIS (Accounting Information Systems) Educator Conference held in Colorado Springs. They competed against 20 other student projects from other universities around the U.S. Accounting students collaborated with the University of Montana Internal Audit Department and their course instructor throughout the semester to document a UM departmental transaction process. The students then make a formal presentation at the end of the semester summarizing the strengths and opportunities for improvement which can be made to the transaction process. According to Kathy Burgmeier, Director of UM Internal Audit, “These projects are of tremendous value and a win-win situation for both UM, the Accounting Department and students.”

Byron is a senior graduating this spring double-majoring in Management Information Systems and International Business with an Accounting Information Systems certificate. He has been a member of the university’s National Model United Nations team for three years and traveled to New York City this spring for the second time to represent the University of Montana with 11 other students. Upon graduation, he will be moving to Portland for a job with KPMG working in the IT Advisory department of the firm. Outside of school he enjoys whitewater kayaking, hunting, hiking, playing intramural sports and being as active as possible.

When a patient is in a critical state, it can be hard to hear alarms over the noise that fills a busy ER. Dr. Alistair MacDonald at St. Patrick Hospital came up with a solution to this problem: a device capable of silencing any machines that are connected when an alarm is activated. He chose a device called the Chipsee Beaglebone 7-inch touchscreen. The device was simple and cost-effective, but it had exposed hardware. In order for Dr. MacDonald’s team to test the device safely and keep it sanitary in the medical environment, they needed a case to enclose it. That’s where SoBA marketing student Eric Hinshaw came in. With his knowledge of computer-aided design and 3D printing, Hinshaw became an integral member of the development team. Hinshaw spent spring semester creating conceptual designs for the case and meticulously measuring the device. Once he had an exact prototype, he printed it at the Mansfield Library using medical-grade black plastic filament. Dr. MacDonald’s team also recruited the help of students in UM’s computer science department to write the accompanying software, helping the project further along into the development phase. Perhaps one day soon this device will be found in hospitals worldwide.
### CPA EXAM PASS RATES

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<th>Auditing</th>
<th>Business Environment &amp; Concepts</th>
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### SOBA STUDENTS WIN PRONTO CHALLENGE PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD

With only one week’s notice, a team of students in BMKT 491, Telling Stories with Data, entered a data analytics competition sponsored by Pronto Cycle Share in Seattle. The contest focused on a large set of collected information about Seattle’s bike share program. The students in the class, taught by marketing analytics expert John Chandler, voted to take on the challenge in addition to an already busy semester schedule. After analyzing the data, the group decided to assemble the results into an infographic for submission and was chosen for the People’s Choice Award. A detailed summary of the group’s entry can be found at Pronto Data Challenge.

### OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

**SELECTED BY FACULTY**

- Outstanding MBA Student
  - Gabriel Millar
- Outstanding Off-Campus MBA Student
  - Brigitta Miranda-Freer
- Outstanding MAcct Student
  - Virginia Aten Erving

**SELECTED BY STUDENTS**

- Outstanding MBA Student
  - Gabriel Millar
- Outstanding Off-Campus MBA Student
  - Nathan Baillet
- Outstanding MAcct Student
  - Alexa Robischon

**OTHER OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS**

- Marion McGill Smith
- Business Humanitarian Award
- Melissa Y. G. Winston
- Montana Society of CPS’s Medallion Award
- Emily Koffler

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**UPFAR STUDENTS EXCEL ON CPA EXAM**

During the summer of 2015, graduating Master of Accountancy (MAcct) students successfully completed the CPA exam with outstanding results. The CPA is comprised of four individualized areas of concentration: Auditing & Attestation, Financial Accounting & Reporting, Regulation, and Business Environment & Concepts. The Director of the Master of Accountancy Program, Professor Teresa Beed, is thrilled with the results. “It is wonderfully fun to see such high MAcct pass rates year after year,” she said. Pass rates from the past several years may be seen on the MAcct program website. “The MAcct students work very hard and it shows,” said Prof. Beed.
JUSTIN ANGLE WINS
SOBA RESEARCH AWARD
Assistant Professor, Marketing, Justin Angle was honored this spring by being presented with the inaugural SoBA Research Award. SoBA recognized Angle, who joined the SoBA family in fall 2012, for his publication, “Riding Coattails: When Co-branding Helps Versus Hurts Less Known Brands,” co-authored with Marcus Cunha of University of Georgia and Mark Forehand of University of Washington. It appeared in print and online in the distinguished Journal of Consumer Research (JCR). This highly competitive award was created to recognize outstanding scholarship and contributions to the profession by a SoBA faculty member. More recently, Angle received conditional acceptance for his paper “The Effect of American Indian Sports Mascots on Racial Stereotyping.” Along with being recognized for his distinguished research record, Angle is well known for his extensive mentoring of students. Angle was featured in the 2014 Dean’s Report for creating opportunities for students to work with all types of local organizations. In his marketing classes he helps students apply what they learn in class to solving marketing problems for several local Missoula area organizations each semester. Personally, Angle enjoys engaging in outdoor activities with wife Maggie and daughters Ainslie (5 years old) and Charlotte (3 years old). According to Angle, “Montana offers an unparalleled outdoor recreational environment and is a wonderful place to bring up children.”

CODY HYSLOP
SOBA CENTRAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Cody Hyslop, ’09, MFA, joined the business school this spring. Since earning his masters degree, he has worked for Upward Bound, The Montana Repertory Theatre and was the Box Office Manager for the College of Visual and Performing Arts Box Office. More recently, Cody worked for the Registrar’s Office before making the move to the School of Business Administration. Cody has lived in Missoula since 2003, having moved here so that his wife Lisa, who is the Registrar of the Alexander Blewett III School of Law, could earn a Masters Degree. He has two sons, Dakota, who lives in Missoula, and Hayden, who lives in Santa Fe. Cody’s passions are reading and collecting books, working on his house and garden and taking road trips throughout Montana.

DESIREE JAMES
ACCOUNTING & FINANCE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT
Desiree James started with the SoBA in August 2015. She is a fourth generation Montanan who grew up in the Blackfoot Valley. She graduated from Hellgate High School in Missoula in 2009 and completed two Bachelor’s Degrees at the University of Montana (Business Accounting and Ecology and Organismal Biology), graduating in 2013. After graduation, Desiree began working at Rocky Mountain Biologicals, a startup company which specializes in the development and production of high performance sera, protein fractions and cell culture media supplements. There she developed skills in quality assurance, organization, auditing and communication, which she hopes will be useful to her position at the University of Montana.

FACULTY AWARDS
awards decided by undergraduate students for tenure-track faculty
• Outstanding Accounting Faculty
  Casey McNellis
• Outstanding Finance Faculty
  Keith Jakob
• Outstanding Management Faculty
  Suzanne Tilleman
• Outstanding Marketing Faculty
  Emily Plant
• Outstanding Management Information Systems Faculty
  David Firth

ADDITIONAL OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARDS
• Outstanding Accounting & Finance Adjunct
  Barb Reider
• Outstanding Management & Marketing Adjunct
  Sherry Liikala
• Outstanding Master of Accountancy (MAcc) Faculty
  Michael Harrington
• Outstanding Master of Business Administration (MBA) Faculty
  Michael Braun
• Outstanding Off-Campus MBA Faculty
  Michael Braun
KATE MCGOLDRICK
Kate McGoldrick joined the business school as the Executive Director for Executive Education at the University of Montana. McGoldrick holds an MBA from the University of Western Australia and BA in Organizational Psychology from NMSU. She is an ACC certified leadership coach with the International Coaching Federation (ICF) and is an administrator of several leadership assessments (CCL’s Benchmarks, Leadership Practices Inventory, Leadership Versatility Index, MBTI and Insights Discovery). She is also a certified wellness coach specializing in leadership resilience and energy management. McGoldrick brings over a decade of experience in leading University-based executive education within the graduate business schools of the University of Western Australia, Simmons College in Boston and UNC Executive Development (ranked #9 globally). She brings to UM international expertise in designing and delivering customized, industry-consortium and open enrollment leadership development programs. A few of her custom-clients include Schneider Electric, Bank of America, CommScope, Woodside Energy Ltd. (Shell Oil), Western Mining Corporation, Time Warner, Inc., Verizon, State Street Global Advisors, Alcoa of Australia and Deloitte and Touche. She is a ceramic artist, organic gardener, environmental activist and outdoor enthusiast. McGoldrick and her husband love to travel for the culture, food and wine and to visit natural world heritage places but while home spend time adoring and hiking with their 7-year old chocolate Labrador, Molly.

SOBA WELCOMES MIKE MORELLI AS DIRECTOR OF ENTERTAINMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (UMEM)
Mike Morelli assumed leadership of SoBA’s popular program last summer. Morelli brings new meaning to the concept of triple threat as he brings to this position over thirty years of experience in the entertainment industry. He also has over forty years of involvement in acting and directing in the West and Midwest and impressive academic credentials spanning four decades of involvement in higher education. In assessing the current UMEM program, Morelli stated that it had been brilliantly designed by the founding alumni and Scott Douglas. “I am impressed by its academic integrity and the incredible opportunities it provides students to learn from giants in the industry.” Looking forward, Morelli hopes to grow the UMEM certificate program by partnering with departments across campus and offering courses that benefit students from such areas as performing arts, fine arts, media arts, journalism and sports and nonprofit organizations. Morelli enjoys the outdoor sports Montana offers and rides his bike to work whenever he can. He is married to Emily Morelli, a talented graphic design consultant. They have two daughters, Gabby and Annan.

THERESA FLOYD
Theresa Floyd joined SoBA as an assistant professor of management. She earned her PhD in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Organizational Behavior, from the University of Kentucky in 2014. Floyd earned a bachelor’s degree in Fashion Design and master’s degree in Textile Design from Syracuse University. Prior to earning her PhD, she worked in retail merchandising for 14 years for companies including Gap and PetSmart. Floyd’s industry experience includes extensive international travel, negotiation with overseas vendors and responsibility for assortments that generated tens of millions of dollars in revenue. She loves bringing her business and research experience to her teaching, and has a passion for preparing her students for successful business careers. Her research interests include social network theory and analysis, social cognition, social influence and the effects of organizational change on organizational attachment. She also engages in business consulting that employs a social networks lens. Floyd enjoys travel, singing, running, yoga and spending time with her husband, Paul, and daughter, Natalie.
The 22nd Annual National AIBL Conference was held in Chandler, AZ in April. We had students from 15 states representing their high school, tribal college and university AIBL Chapters. The student chapters came to compete for prizes in our Business Plan competition that was focused on providing assistance for a local Native American entrepreneur. The University of Montana’s AIBL Chapter placed 3rd in the Business Plan competition and won the AIBL Chapter of the Year award for the University division. This year, the Leadership Conference was sponsored by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of MT, Nike N7, Toyota, Salish & Kootenai Tribe, Gerhard and Ursula Von Der Ruhr, and John and Mary Turmell.

American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL) is the only American Indian non-profit organization solely dedicated to empowering business students in the United States. Our 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.

BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH (BBER)

BBER completed its 41st annual Economic Outlook Seminar tour to nine cities across Montana. This year BBER presented the Outlook to almost 1300 Montanans. The tour wrapped up with its biennial trips to Lewistown and Havre, where BBER conducted its first ever live webcast of the Outlook from MSU-Northern. BBER also debuted the Montana Economic Report, an analysis and assessment of Montana’s economic performance.

BBER Associate Director and Director of Healthcare, Bryce Ward, has been evaluating Montana’s Medicaid expansion program. The Montana Health Economic Livelihood Partnership plan expanded access to healthcare for 70,000 Montanans. The evaluation is required by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. The evaluation looks at waivers, premiums, enrollment, health behavior and churn among other criteria. Founded in 1948, the BBER has provided a full range of survey services for more than 35 years. The Bureau offers broad-based survey services for public- and private-sector studies, including survey development, data collection, analysis and report writing.
With the vision and leadership of alumnus Dave Enger, last year Pacific Coast Banking School created an award for outstanding faculty in the School of Business Administration. The award recognizes professors with excellent teaching evaluations and will be given to five faculty members – one in each of the school’s five departments – each spring.

Dave Enger, executive director and CEO of PCBS, stands with Suzanne Tilleman, 2015 PCBS Outstanding Faculty awardee in Management, at the 2015 Donor Recognition and Scholarship Banquet.

2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS:
Suzanne Tilleman (Management), Emily Plant (Marketing), Casey McNellis (Accounting), Keith Jakob (Finance), David Firth (MIS).
A merger between real-world business and leading edge education

Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building Home to: Montana's First Executive Education Center

University of Montana Foundation UM's Global Leadership Initiative

For more information contact Kate McGoldrick - kate.mcgoldrick@mso.umt.edu – 406.243.6990

DEAN'S REPORT 2015-2016

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF
Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building

Thursday, May 12 @ 3:00 p.m.

RIBBON CUTTING | BUILDING TOURS | CELEBRATION OF GENEROSITY
A merger between real-world business and leading edge education

Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building
Home to: Montana’s First Executive Education Center
University of Montana Foundation
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CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building

offering a unique UM venue for business, entrepreneurship and emerging leaders to learn, develop and contribute

Thursday, May 12 @ 3:00 p.m.
RIBBON CUTTING | BUILDING TOURS | CELEBRATION OF GENEROSITY
Breshia Hardy understands the power of giving back.
While pursuing an accounting and management information systems degree, Breshia has spent countless hours volunteering for Up ‘til Dawn, a student group that raises money for St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

“It’s a real-world experience and has been an incredible learning opportunity for me,” she says.

Scholarships have helped cover Breshia’s tuition expenses, allowing her to focus her time and energy on out-of-the-classroom leadership experiences like Up ‘til Dawn and a high-profile internship at Deloitte in Seattle, which led to a formal job offer.

This spring she’ll graduate debt-free and start her career at the nation’s top accounting firm.

“Thanks to private support, I get to start off the next chapter of my life with a clean slate. It’s an amazing gift.”
It’s Easy to Do
Just a few sentences in your will or living trust is all that is needed to make a gift from your estate.

Your gift can be made for a specific dollar amount, for a percentage of your estate or for all or a portion of what is left after you have made gifts to your family.

You can also make a gift from your estate by designating SoBA as the beneficiary of financial accounts such as IRAs, bank accounts or life insurance policies.

It is important that you designate your gift to the University of Montana Foundation, rather than to SoBA or UM directly. The Foundation was created to receive, invest, and distribute funds for the benefit of the University.

You Can Direct How Your Gift Will Be Used
Your gift can provide unrestricted support for SoBA. Unrestricted gifts are especially valuable since they can support SoBA’s areas of highest need. You can also choose to restrict your gift to a particular program or purpose, such as faculty support or scholarships.

We can work with you and your advisors to draft gift language to ensure your gift can be used as you intend.

Creating a Lasting Legacy
Your gift can create a fund bearing your name or the name of a loved one. The fund you create can be a spendable fund or an endowment. Spendable funds are normally used in their entirety within a short time frame. Endowed funds provide support every year in perpetuity. Note that endowed funds require a minimum funding amount.

Let Us Know
If you have provided for SoBA in your will or living trust, please let us know. We would like to thank you for your generosity and ensure your gift can be used as you intend.

Call Us
Contact Kate Jennings at kate.jennings@mso.umt.edu or 406-243-4569 with any questions about making a gift through your will or living trust to benefit SoBA. She is happy to help!
Maggie S. Woo, ’75, 2015 Outstanding Distinguished Alumna

Maggie S. Woo, a Montana native, graduated with high honors, earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting. She went on to earn an MBA at Boston’s Northeastern University in 1977.

Woo began her career in 1977 at Galusha, Higgins & Galusha CPAs in Helena. During her time at GHG, she advanced to shareholder status in 1993 and retired after 32 years with the firm. Maggie was the fifth woman to achieve shareholder status at the firm since its inception in 1919 and chaired the firm’s tax committee before retirement. Her professional affiliations included membership in the American Institute of CPAs and the Montana Society of CPAs.

Throughout her career, Woo served on many local nonprofit organization boards, including those for Region IV Family Outreach, Helena Presents/the Myrna Loy Center, Helena Family YMCA, the Grandstreet Theatre, the Montana Club, the Friendship Center and the Archie Bray Foundation. In addition, Woo was a member of the Small Business Advisory Council and served on the UM Student Affairs Advisory Board from 2004 to 2009.

Woo resides in Helena and enjoys many outdoor activities. She continues to volunteer for local organizations and supports UM as a member of the President’s Club and the UM Alumni Association. She also is a trustee for the Haynes Foundation.

Mark Matsko ’80, 2015 Outstanding Alumnus

Mark Matsko, a Montana native, graduated with high honors in accounting and economics/political science. He worked at Great Falls Coca-Cola before moving to Boise, Idaho, to take a job with Arthur Andersen in their tax department. The lure of private business quickly brought him back to Coca-Cola two years later, where he was actively involved in the acquisition of additional bottling plants in Kalispell and Missoula.

Matsko held several positions, including president, from 1983 until he negotiated the sale of that firm in 1986. He found his passion and transitioned into the investment industry. Matsko worked as a security analyst in Washington, D.C., and became a chartered financial analyst. After moving back to Boise, he started his own investment firm, worked as a broker at D.A. Davidson and in 1996 became a partner in Burroughs & Hutchinson, the first Registered Investment Advisor in Idaho. Since becoming president in 2001, the firm has grown to $300 million under his supervision and recently changed its name to Selway Asset Management.

Matsko is active in civic and social groups throughout Boise. As coach of softball, basketball and soccer teams, he spent many evenings and weekends with his three daughters. A former board member of the United Way Treasure Valley, Crane Creek Country Club and UM Alumni Association, he also served with the UM Foundation Board of Trustees. Matsko attributes any success he has had to the support, love and encouragement of his wife, Carrie.

Jena Gardner ’92, 2015 Outstanding Early Career Alumna

Gardner grew up in Hamilton and graduated with honors from UM’s School of Business Administration. An entrepreneur, marketing expert, best-selling author and travel industry icon, Gardner turned a lifelong passion for travel into a thriving enterprise. She founded Global Group by JG in New York City in 2002 and has since built it into a highly successful consulting firm. The firm has been named by Inc. magazine as one of the country’s fastest growing privately held companies for four consecutive years.

Gardner, a sought-after industry consultant, was named one of the Top 25 Most Extraordinary Minds in Sales and Marketing by HSMAI. An international keynote speaker, she has presented at Global Women’s Forum, the Global Eco Conference, the Fortune Luxury Summit, the Luxury Marketing Council, the BVI Business Outlook Conference and the Luxury Portfolio SUMMIT.

She is also a contributing writer for several magazines and co-author of the best-selling book “Women Who Mean Business.” Gardner serves on the judging committee for the World Travel and Tourism Council’s Tourism for Tomorrow Awards.

Gardner credits her own life-changing journeys as the inspiration for her company, as well as her altruistic efforts. She sponsors eight children globally and has co-founded the Bodhi Tree Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting environmental and humanitarian efforts related to travel and tourism sustainability.

A licensed CPA with an extensive background in luxury hotel management, Gardner spearheaded sales and marketing efforts for Ritz-Carlton and Montana’s Triple Creek Ranch before founding Global Group. She credits her professional success and core values of hard work, dedication and loyalty to her deep Montana roots. Gardner is the proud mom of triplet 2-year-old boys Dylan, Aidan and William.
CRAIG AND SUSAN CRAWFORD RETURN TO MONTANA

After many years living successful corporate lives, Craig and Susan Crawford have returned to their Montana roots. Drawn to Missoula by family and friends, they quickly settled in to the Missoula lifestyle. Craig is teaching accounting and auditing for SoBA and Susan opened the Mauka Art Gallery and Studio on Higgins Avenue.

Craig Crawford, (Accounting ’79) joined the SoBA teaching faculty this spring. His presence in the classroom created quite a buzz among accounting students. They understand how fortunate they are to be able to take a class from a professional with such a stellar record. Crawford brings to the classroom extensive experience both in auditing and in setting U.S. and international auditing standards.

In his corporate career, Crawford most recently served as national partner in charge of audit quality and as partner in charge of the audit group in KPMG’s national offices in New York, interpreting and implementing auditing standards in the U.S. and abroad. He also has extensive experience in setting auditing standards through his participation on U.S. and international standard-setting bodies.

Even though he has lived in many different places, Crawford kept his ties to UM. He received the SoBA Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2007; served on the Dean’s Business Advisory Council, the UM Alumni Association Board of Directors and the UM Foundation Board of Trustees.

When asked about his current teaching experience, Crawford replied, “I really like it. But it sure is hard work.” Crawford is obviously a quick study. He learned in a few short weeks what most excellent instructors eventually find out: it takes a great deal of time and effort to make classes relevant to students. Crawford can be found most days working in his office with the door open, greeting each student who drops by with a big smile and an invitation to sit down.

BLONDES CAN’T WEAR YELLOW
Susan Crawford (Marketing ’79) began her academic career with an interest in fashion design. She tells about becoming a business major after her fashion design professor informed her that the dress she created would be docked a grade because it was the “wrong” color. “I was told blondes can’t wear yellow. And I am a blonde.” That’s when I decided to major in marketing. In spite of being an outstanding business student, Susan needed art in her life. According to Susan, “Art was a good complement to the demands of corporate life which required the family to move many times.” Susan used her talents in her early career for Gainan’s in Billings where she created award winning advertising campaigns and large-scale animated sculptures. While living on the east coast she was accepted into the prestigious National Association of Women Artists in New York City. Today, Susan has the Mauka gallery, which opened in Missoula last December.

Crawford has shown her work in galleries and exhibitions in New York, Hawaii, Louisiana, Montana and Connecticut. Her art work is part of corporate and private collections throughout the United States. She currently shows her paintings on the east coast as well as in Missoula.
DICK SPALDING ’55 is retired and spends early January at the Bay Club!

LAW RISKEN ’58 has been retired since 1994 from the Washington State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation as an Administrator. During Griz football season he watches Saturday UM games at O’Blarney’s Pub in Olympia with his alum pals.

TERRENCE RIEGER ’62 has had a varied career in both business and mathematics education, as well as being a Registered Representative NASD/FINRA Series 7 & 63, from 1967 to present.

PAT MCDONALD ’63 recently retired from the Board of Directors of Missoula Manor, a local 135 unit non-profit complex which provides housing and meals for low income individuals. He spends his days either in Missoula, attempting to play that game of golf, or traveling to Florida and Arizona visiting children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and enjoying life to its fullest!!

CARL KUNEW ’64 lives in Colleyville, TX, and is enjoying his retirement. He will turn 90 in May. Carl and his wife, Hazel, are both in good health and enjoy being close to their daughter and her very active family.

JIM HELGESON ’65 retired from the Navy, and still feels privileged to help those in pre- and post-retirement with their retirement investment needs. He is the financial advisor to about 150 clients in a dozen states. Jim spends his time between homes in Montana and California.

GEORGE FOSTER ’67 is retired and spends a great deal of time in his yard and volunteering to help animals. He loves Tennessee, as it reminds him of Montana in many ways.

DAN PLUTE ’67 and his wife, Nina Veselova, reside in Hayward, CA. He is CEO of Material and Contract Services, Inc. and a Vice President and partner in Construction Management Services Inc. and Construction Technology Network, Inc., companies that provide professional services in construction, procurement, contracts and project management. The “M” climb is still on his list of Missoula activities, though he declares, “The trek to the M has taken longer the past few years.”

JUDITH PERRY ’68 paired the ‘unusual’ combination of social work and accounting to create a fulfilling career in medical social work in hospitals and dialysis centers. She learned so much that prepared her for adulthood, personal and professional, from Dr. Patricia Pump, Fred Henningsen and Dr. “Black Jack” Kempner.

MAX BAUER ’69 retired after 43 years at Republic Services.

GARY CARLSON ’69 CPA and past member of the Accounting Advisory Board and Business School Advisory Council has begun working less at Anderson ZurMuehlen (47 years and counting).

MARDI MILLIGAN ’69 is the employment and training coordinator for the national program Experience Works (formerly Green Thumb). She travels 15 Montana counties to help low income seniors get training and find jobs.

PATRICK SHANNON ’70 has entered “Phased Retirement” at Boise State, which means he will teach fall semester only for a few years before retiring permanently. He is spending his time this spring doing some warm weather traveling with his wife, Kathy, and working on the 10th edition of his business statistics text.

“I was an MBA here, too,” Joe Valacich, a world-renowned scientist and head of Neuro-ID’s research operations, told Prof. Cameron Lawrence’s graduate Management of Information Systems class.

Valacich is co-inventor of Neuro-ID’s patented technologies and also a professor at the University of Arizona, but he returned to UM to give a guest lecture. “It’s great to come back to Missoula. I love this place,” he said.

The company he cofounded, Neuro-ID, merges state-of-the-art human interface sensor science and big data technology. To put it simply, it can detect lies. Fraud impacts nearly every aspect of modern life. “This is why we’re going after fraud,” Valacich said.

In 2012, amidst buzz about innovative eye-tracking and thermal imaging technologies, Valacich explored the possibility of using a computer mouse, typing and touch screens as the next-generation polygraph.

Valacich attributes much of his success to the power of the Cloud and hard work. When asked what advice he would offer the MBAs on starting a business, Valacich offered, “It will be harder than you ever imagined.” He also gave a nod to his education: “It is amazing what going to college can do for you.”
TED WOLD ’70 is celebrating his 20th year in business as Wold, Inc. This company was started after he retired from the wood products industry after 26 years.

NANCY AND ROBERT LOCHMILLER ’71 are happily retired and living on the banks of Pend Oreille Lake near Sandpoint, ID. They enjoy traveling, especially during what used to be tax season.

JEAN-CLAUDE MAROUBY MBA ’72 recently retired after a long career in the natural gas industry in France and England.

SANDI BREWSTER ’73 works for University of Washington Medicine in the accounting department as the G/L Integrity Analyst. Sandi may work for UW but will ALWAYS be a Griz!!

HEIDI MCCLAIN ’74 is a partner in a small company that creates promotions for grocery stores, department stores, etc. They have successfully launched the largest game in the history of the promotion business this year.

C MAX MURPHY ’74 builds radio stations in Missoula. He worked on the Excellence Business Fund Drive this year, and it was a great year to be in Quarterback Club with our new coach.

KAREN ZANOL ’77 is excited to begin her 30th year as a CPA at Cordell, Neher & Co., PLLC in Wenatchee, WA. She still remembers having Professor Gianchetta before he was the Dean! She and her husband, Tim, hope to make it to UM Homecoming to play in the Alumni Band once again this year.

RON NELSON ’78 is a human resource manager for Macy’s. He has three stores, two on Maui and one on Oahu. He lives on Maui and flies to Oahu every week. Ron has been with Macy’s for 32 years.

PHILIP WEISNER ’78 entered into the diamond business back in 1980 and is still going strong. His Manhattan, NY office has pictures of Montana all over the walls.

PERRY COLE ’79 is a senior advisor and operating partner at Virgo Investment Group focused on investing in energy projects and companies. He is also the Board Chairman of Nautilus Solar Energy, LLC.

JERRY AND CAROL ERICKSON ’79 live in Spearfish, SD, and own the Accounting Practice of JA Erickson & Company, PC. They have two grown children, Boyd and Madelaine.

PAT GODBOUT ’79 retired in 2011, after 15 years working for state government and as a health care consultant. She lives in Arizona and at Georgetown Lake and wanders the world a few times a year, her latest trips being to Antarctica and Africa.

CHRISTOPHER LOY ’79 recently joined Superior Silica Sands as Chief Financial Officer. The company is based in Fort Worth, TX and supplies high-quality, technologically advanced proppants used in hydraulic fracturing.

CHARLIE MONAHAN MBA ’79 recently completed his 28th year with Panasonic, where he is the Director of Environmental / Regulatory Compliance. He also serves on the Board of Directors of various industry organizations. He and his wife, Annette, live in the Research Triangle Park area of North Carolina.

CHRISTINE BRUMMER ’81 recently joined a Detroit law firm, Honigman, in corporate governance as a tax and special projects strategist.

BILL CLARK ’81 is moving to Ireland next month with Salesforce to manage the EMEA Marketing Cloud Renewals team as Principal, Marketing Cloud Renewals. He has two sons, one daughter and a one year old granddaughter. “...life is good and all possible because of the University of Montana, a place held dear in my heart forever.”

JEFF ICENHOWER ’81 moved to Fort Collins, CO, where he consults periodically on employee and leadership development, and started a business doing leatherwork — Mission West Leather.

JOHN MURPHEY MBA ’81 is Chief Mechanical Officer - Engineering & Strategy with CSX based in Jacksonville, FL.
DAVID BENSON ‘82 marked the 32nd year of his professional career of protecting people, places and things through the administration and application of insurance and risk management. He starts each day with a smile and the excitement of knowing that what he does makes a difference. According to David, “In the end, I owe all this happiness in part to the experiences I had and continue to have at the University of Montana!”

GREG SAUBER ‘82 lives in Denver, CO, where he owns and runs three award winning restaurants; The Washington Park Grille, Max Gill & Grill and Agave Taco Bar. Greg was a founding member and past president of The Denver Active 20/30 Children’s Foundation.

SCOTT STANAWAY ‘82 is general manager for A&I Distributors. A&I distributes automotive, industrial and motor oil related products in the Western U.S.

JOE HOLLIMAN ‘85, MA ‘93 has had a varied 20 year career as an energy economist in the retail electric power industry.

KALLY WHITE WILSON ‘86 worked in finance for several years before returning to college to pursue a Masters in Medicine, as a Physician Assistant. In 2006 she formed a PLLC, and now primarily contracts to assist in the operating room for more complex orthopedic and spine surgeries. She’s also employed by Northwest Women’s Healthcare where she assists with robotic and other gynecologic surgeries. Kally is married and lives in Kalispell, MT.

DENNIS BROOKE ‘87 retired from IT consulting in January and will be traveling the world and writing full time. His novel, The Last Apostle, was released February 1.

STEVE BRYANT ‘88 serves as Vice President, Commercial Lending, at First Security Bank of Missoula. He is also Vice President of the Grizzly Scholarship Association, and becomes President in July.

JOE MONAHAN ‘89 has a new role as senior vice president of sales at Carhartt, after 18 incredible years at Nike.

STACY LIND ‘91 lives in Billings and is Vice President of Operations and Development for Erck Hotels. Based out of Missoula, MT, Erck Hotels is a proud sponsor of the University of Montana.

KELLY MAGNUSON ‘94 completed her 20th year at the University of Montana Residence Life Office, where she is Assistant Director for Student Conduct and Programs. Kelly loves being on campus and in Missoula.

MICHELE MONTREUIL ‘94 is finishing her first year in Medical Information Technology, Medical Coding at Missoula College. She is studying to advance in the field of medical language data structure and content for coding, billing and reimbursement for the health insurance industry and medical providers.

RYAN GRAFF ‘96 works for Target Corp as lead supply chain analyst, doing logistics, analytics and capacity planning.

MARK JETTE ‘97 leveraged the internship program to work on Capitol Hill. With that experience and help from friends, including UM Law, he is an attorney for the Montana Dept. of Labor, Business Standards Division. “Thanks for the start!”

SHANNON NOBLE ‘97 runs the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program at the Missoula Job Service where she provides case management for veterans with significant barriers to employment.

KARA DILLE ‘98, MACCT ‘99 co-founded SCP Investment, a family wealth management firm. She is also co-founding and launching Dille & Koo, a personal and professional administration business for families.

JENNIFER HALL ‘99 sells residential real estate in the Billings, MT area with Keller Williams Realty Premier Brokers. She lives in Laurel, MT with her husband Neil, also a UM graduate, and their two sons.

MICHAEL SPARR ‘00 returned to Montana to grow a startup software business after four years working out of the San Francisco Bay Area and Europe. Michael is married with two children ages 2 and 4.

JAMIE ASKVIG ‘01, MBA ‘14 works for Wells Fargo Consumer Credit as a Marketing Program Manager. She manages the early customer experience for its cash rewards products.

BRENDAN NICHOLAS ‘01 lives in San Diego, CA where he is a Partner/Technology Recruiter for an IStaffing firm, AbleForce, Inc. He has a beautiful wife and 20-month old daughter, and enjoys surfing every chance he gets.
DARREN SCHULDHEISS ’01 is Idaho Market President for KeyBank.

JAMES ZIMMERMANN ’01, MBA ’11 is happy to report that he and fellow alumnus, TRAVIS LINNEMAN, ’06, MBA ’13, are still growing Selway Armory. They currently have 15 employees, a store in Missoula and a warehouse in Lolo, and are looking to open another store in Montana soon.

JACQUELINE CASELTON ’02 celebrates her 10th anniversary this year with Capital Ideas, a female-owned promotional marketing company. Jacqueline and her husband returned to Missoula in 2014, just in time for their oldest child to start kindergarten.

RAYMOND CASTRO ’03, MBA ’10 works at Digital Air Strike, a marketing agency in Scottsdale, AZ, managing the paid media department. Although he has been in Arizona since 2011, he misses Montana every day.

LUCY EDNIE ’03 works as an RN at St. James Healthcare in Butte, MT. She is a member of the Executive Board of the National Federation of Nurses, and sits on the Public Policy Committee for the American Federation of Teachers Nurses and Healthcare Division. Additionally, she is one of two Montana delegates to the American Nurses’ Association annual assembly. She and her husband are restoring a 100 year old Queen Anne house in uptown Butte.

JON SWAN ’03 and his wife, Robin, currently live in Boston with their four kids. He completed an MBA/MPP from Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School in 2009, and is currently a principal at The Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

PETE LUCHINI MACCT ’04 is a CPA in Wenatchee, WA, where he recently became principal with the firm Cordell, Neher & Co, PLLC. He is married with six kids ages nine months through 11 years.

CALEB SENN ’05 works for TrailWest Bank as a Compliance Officer and Project Manager. He is also an officer in Bitterroot Valley Kiwanis.

JONI WALKER MBA ’05 is launching a new career with Cascadia Business Development—founded by fellow UM Alumna COLLEEN RUDIO, ’94. They will be helping businesses create strategic marketing plans, build capacity, develop their leadership capabilities and find new ways to grow.

BRYAN COLLETTE ’06 works for EVRAZ, North America as the financial accounting manager in Portland, OR.

BRIAN HUGHES ’06 is currently Vice President at his family business, Missoula’s Office City. He is the 4th generation family member in the business. He and his wife, KARLI FRILLA HUGHES ’08, have a new baby girl, Hadli.

ASHLEY KING-JONES ’06 is the marketing officer, loan processing officer and senior underwriter at Three Rivers Bank of Montana, in Kalispell. She and her husband, Bobby, enjoy spending time exploring and playing in the great outdoors with their two dogs.

MARLANA MARTIN ’06 is the human resources director at Benewah Community Hospital in St. Maries, ID, and got she married in June 2015.

JAIME MILLER ’06 lives in the Portland, OR, area and works in bookkeeping and office management. Jamie has a beautiful little girl who will enter kindergarten in the fall, and is finding herself in the world of soccer coach/mom and dance classes.

RICK HEILMAN ’07 is retired and lives in Missoula. He enjoys horticulture, horses and most of all spending time with family.

JAKE LINVILLE ’07 is an assistant controller for Sound Physicians, Inc. in Tacoma, WA. He has a beautiful six year old daughter that is the apple of his eye and he loves being a dad.

SASKIA BOOGMAN ’08 was recently promoted to external content manager for Kampgrounds of America, Inc. Saskia lives in Billings, MT with her boyfriend and is a top ten bodybuilder in the nation currently competing for professional status.

TUCKER GANNETT ’08 is an attorney in private practice in Billings, MT, with Harris, Gannett & Varela, PLLC. He practices in the areas of commercial litigation, insurance bad faith and personal injury.

EMILY GULICK ’08 holds a CPA license in Montana and works in public accounting at Gary Kasper & Company, Inc. in Fairfield, MT. She and her husband, Cody, own and operate a farm west of Fairfield. They have a two year old daughter, Bryce.

LYDIA LUDWIG ’08, MBA ’13 is at the UM Foundation, using both her CPA and MBA as the Controller. She is married to Chris Ludwig, a UM Pharmacy student.
IRIS OWEN ’08 is a supervisor CPA at Anderson ZurMuehlen in Missoula. Last fall Iris sat at a roundtable discussion with the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Tom Perez, to discuss work/life balance and paid family leave. She was featured in an article on the U.S. Secretary of Labor’s website, on KPAX and in the Montana Business Quarterly.

TIM THARP MBA ’08 has been the superintendent of schools in Sunburst, MT since 2010 but will be moving to Hobson, MT to take over the same position in July.

BREANNA WILSON ’08 is working for Edelman in Seattle, WA, a leading global communications marketing firm. She is an account supervisor, doing public relations for the global Xbox account.

AUSTIN MULLINS ’09, MBA ’10 works at William Morris Endeavor (WME) in Nashville, TN. He is an agent in its country music department. WME is the world’s largest talent agency and entertainment content provider with offices in Beverly Hills, Nashville, New York City, Miami and London.

THOMAS HAWKINS ’10 is network administrator for Big Sky Resort in Big Sky, MT.

MIKE MAESAR MBA ’10 works as a Revenue Accountant for Northwestern Energy and an Adjunct Instructor at Montana Tech in Butte, MT. He and his wife have three children, Lian, Aiden and Cailin.

SARAH PAARDEKOOPER-CASTILLO ’10 is the client implementation manager for Kuder, Inc., a career development software and services company in Adel, IA.

Helay Rahimi ’10 works at KPMG and sits on the leadership board for Women in Technology International and the Silicon Valley Chapter of The Data Warehousing Institute.

DEVIN IVERSON ’11 works at S&P Capital in Denver, CO, selling data to commodity traders.

JOELLIE RASMUSEN ’11 graduated from the Masters of Anthropology program at Boise State University in 2014. She currently works as a QA Analyst for Clearwater Analytics in Boise, ID. Clearwater Analytics is a SaaS provider, focusing on investment reporting and analytics.

CHRIS WILKINS ’11 will be graduating with an MBA from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis in May. After graduation he will move to Arkansas to join the Wal-Mart team as a sales analyst with Henkel consumer goods.

JACK KEMPNER, A SOBA LEGEND

Retired accounting professor, Jack Kempner, passed away this year leaving behind a legacy of excellence in accounting education. According to Professor Teresa Beed, “Jack Kempner was ahead of his time in many ways.” In particular, “Jack Kempner gave both female and male students equal respect and encouragement to pursue a profession which was dominated by men when Kempner began teaching. He encouraged me to pursue my Ph.D. when I had no intention of doing so.”

One former student described Kempner’s classes as being a “real world test. Dr. Kempner made sure we would be prepared for anything the profession would throw at us. We were kids from Montana. He was preparing us to function as professionals wherever we would end up working.” Kempner did his best to ensure that SoBA accounting students were employable by the best firms in the country. He also made certain that the students would have the opportunity to be employed. Toward that end, Kempner persuaded recruiters to interview SoBA accounting students. He created an accounting advisory board to help provide guidance and publicity for the accounting program. He raised money for accounting scholarships. All the while, Kempner’s research was being published in the best accounting journals at the time. He did what he could to carve a national reputation for the accounting program in Montana.

Jack Kempner was a person who cared deeply for the welfare of others. He was a man with a dry wit that could cleverly point out the absurdity of a situation. He had a strong sense of fair play and appropriateness. He was always a gentleman as well as a scholar. Jack Kempner was 99.

TRAVIS HANNON ’12 currently works as a consultant for Smartsheet.com in Bellevue, WA. Travis climbed Mt. Rainier last year!

GRECIA PACHECO ’12 lives in Edmonton, Alberta where she works as a marketing consultant and entrepreneur. She is also working towards an MBA in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

HENRY BISHOP ’13 is a real estate broker licensed in OR and WA and coaches high school lacrosse.

YURI DIFORT ’13 lives in Redondo Beach, CA and loves it! He works for KPMG’s Advisory practice in Risk Consulting as a senior associate in the Los Angeles office.

KEATON OSLER ’13 works in Global Talent Acquisition Operations at Nike, Inc. in the Portland, OR area.

CORAL MAIN ’14 is the staff accountant for Blue Marble Biomaterials. Coral began as an intern and has been with Blue Marble since.

KARL MORTZ ’14 lives in Missoula where he works with a Christian not-for-profit financial planning firm, whose goal is to help its members be wise with money and practice generosity. Karl is married to a fellow UM alum, Gretchen Wall Moritz, and they have a 15 month old daughter, Aliyah.

JOSH PREBIL MBA ’14 works as the estimator/project manager for Dayspring Restoration in Great Falls, MT.

TAYLOR PRESTON ’14 lives in Scottsdale, AZ, where she is an IT Consultant for EMC. Taylor’s current project has her traveling to North Carolina and New York once a month.

RACHEL PRESTON ’14 works as a marketing consultant for KRTV in Great Falls, MT. KRTV sells CBS, NBC and CW in Great Falls and the surrounding 14 counties.

DEBBIE TATSEY ’14 is the operations coordinator for Partnership for Children, a non-profit organization offering treatment services and support to children and their families that have experienced early childhood traumatic experiences.

BENJAMIN DAWSON ’15 works at DIRECTV customer care call center in Missoula, where he has worked since college.

RENN FAIRCHILD MBA ’15 accepted a position with the Flathead County Attorney’s office in January.

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2015-2016 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS (TOTAL $360,000)

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“I would feel very privileged if some student became successful because of my scholarship.”

— Don Witmer, UM MBA ‘83

CELEBRATING THE GOOD LIFE: SOBA DONOR MAKES GIFT FOR STUDENTS FROM CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Life has been good for Don Witmer. Thirty years after getting his MBA at UM, after guiding four different companies through their IPOs in Silicon Valley’s white-hot start-up climate, raising a daughter and two grandkids, and his wife, Elaine, now own a pistachio orchard down in Paso Robles, California. They have a cellar full of good local wine. Sometimes, after too many glasses, he thinks about going back to work and doing another IPO, but for the most part he’s happy to enjoy the orchard and life on the Central Coast.

Witmer may be content in his retirement, but he’s not content to just sit back. He’s active in a number of local and community charities, like MUST! Charities, a coalition of local business people who come together to fight poverty issues in their community. Then there’s his UM volunteerism. He’s served on the School of Business Administration’s Business Advisory Council and the UM House of Delegates.

Last year, he took his commitment to SoBA to the next level by making a gift in support of scholarships. His scholarship fund will support undergraduate students from Central California who are business majors.

“I’ve been wanting to do this for a while,” Witmer says. “We know kids locally who want to go to UM, but it’s too expensive.”

He also recognizes that substantial scholarships help UM recruit out-of-state students, helping the University in another way. It’s a “real value trade,” he says.

The first Don Witmer Scholarship will be awarded for the 2016-17 school year.

“I hope that the students who receive our scholarship are inquisitive and do more than just go to classes – I hope they take advantage of activities, visit other countries and so forth. To know that I had a part of that – that makes me feel good. I would feel very privileged if some student became successful because of my scholarship.”