

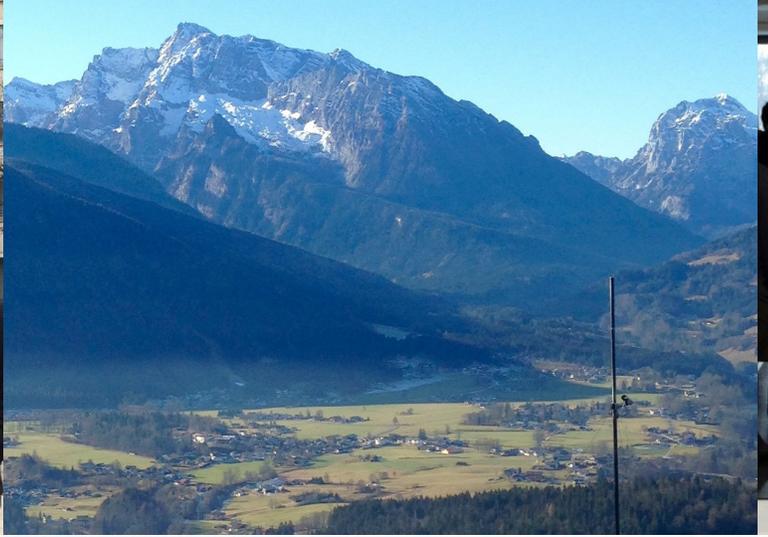
# Heart & Soul

hs.umt.edu

Spring 2016

## A Better Tomorrow

College of  
**Humanities & Sciences**  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



Led by Communication Studies professors Sara Hayden and Betsy Wackernagel Bach, a group of students spent the winter break in Europe, where they investigated the relationships between communication, politics, and human rights in the European nations of Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic. Through readings, discussion, and site visits they explored the causes and effects of Nazi and Soviet propaganda, focusing on how and why the rhetorical strategies functioned in support of fascist states. You can find more information about their trip on the group's student-run travel blog at <https://thetravelinggriz.wordpress.com/>.

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1933-1945



## To our H&S community:

We are continually amazed when we reflect back each spring on the achievements and stories of our students, faculty, and alumni. H&S is more than an assembly of departments and programs. It is a place where ideas flow organically, where experience and innovation come together, and where the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities work side-by-side to confront the most challenging issues of our time. It is this interdisciplinary approach that makes our College unique, and this environment that provides the foundation from which we are striving to make the world a better place.

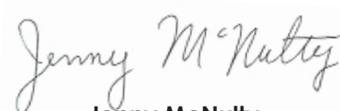
For an example of this, we need look no further than our 4th annual H&S Dialogue in the Humanities and Sciences. This year's discussion, "Epidemic Measures: Zika, Humanity and the 21st Century," featured Communication Studies associate professor Joel Iverson, Biochemistry professor Steve Lodmell, and Sociology associate professor Teresa Sobieszczyk, and was moderated by H&S alumnus and freelance journalist Jeremy N. Smith (MFA, '05). H&S Advisory Board member and Director of Rocky Mountain Laboratory Marshall Bloom also joined the discussion, and together the group focused on the recent emergence of the Zika virus, its effect on local and global communities and the consequential government and organizational response. It was an incredible display of our faculty integrating their various areas of research to engage a very real world issue in a most timely way.

This is not the only example, however. In the following pages you will see how H&S is finding a way toward a better tomorrow. You will meet inspirational students that are making a difference and encounter faculty rising to the challenges of the 21st Century. You will read of our annual Evening of Thanks event and glimpse the relationships and bonds of a college and community coming together. As you read and enjoy these stories, we invite you to remember that you are and will continue to be a member of our community. We are H&S, and together there is nothing we can't achieve.

As always, we want to stay connected and hear your story as well. Please visit our website [www.hs.umt.edu](http://www.hs.umt.edu) for up-to-date information regarding College news and events. You can also like us on Facebook by visiting [www.facebook.com/HandSNews](http://www.facebook.com/HandSNews), or contact us anytime at [hs@mso.umt.edu](mailto:hs@mso.umt.edu). Congratulations to the Class of 2016, and thank you for your continued support of H&S.

  
**Christopher Comer**  
 Dean

College of  
**Humanities  
 & Sciences**  
 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

  
**Jenny McNulty**  
 Associate Dean

*A celebration of gratitude, and an...*

# *Evening of Thanks*



Dennis Eck (left) and Dean Comer (right) share a laugh during the Evening's program.

The College of Humanities and Sciences held its Evening of Thanks celebration on April 14, 2016. The annual spring event recognizes members of The President's Club (donors of \$1,000+) to the College, and new members of the Oscar J. Craig Heritage Society, visionary individuals who support the College through their estate plans.

The special program included remarks on philanthropy from Dennis Eck, a 1967 History and Political Science graduate who is helping the College transform the Liberal Arts building classrooms and technology. Mr. Eck shared how much his support to the College means to him personally and how he hopes it will inspire his grandchildren to also share of their many life blessings. The first recipient of the George M. and Jane I. Dennison Doctoral Fellowship in History, Pat O'Connor also offered words of appreciation to the donors who support student scholarships and fellowships like his.



From left to right: UM Foundation CEO Shane Giese, H&S Advisory Board member Karen Dykstra, and H&S supporter Tim Descamps

Also recognized at the event were faculty teaching award winners and outgoing H&S Advisory Board Members, Dr. William (Bill) Reynolds and Mrs. Lauren Descamps (in attendance), along with Mr. Reed Overfelt and Mr. Doug Taylor. Dean Comer offered gratitude to all of the College's generous supporters on behalf of the students and faculty who benefit from charitable giving each year. He noted that technology and classroom improvements, scholarships and fellowships, faculty development and awards for international study abroad are just a few of the ways in which philanthropy makes an important difference for the College.



From left to right: H&S Advisory Board Members Bob Stromberg, Phill Guay, and Mary Stromberg

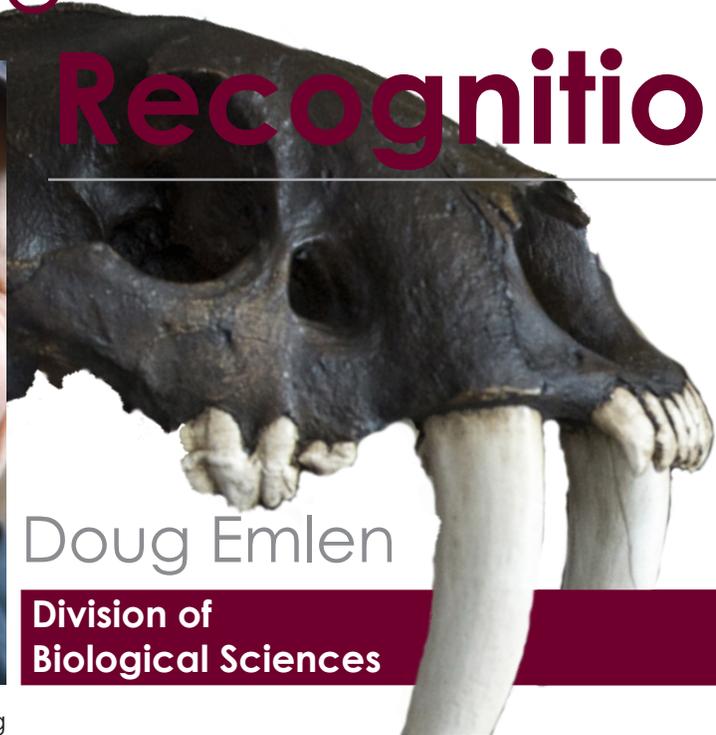


From left to right: Joe Batts and Lana Richard-Batts share a discussion with Mary Engstrom



Outgoing H&S Advisory Board member Bill Reynolds talks with William Reynolds Teaching Award recipient David Shively (Geography)

# Getting the Recognition



Doug Emlen

Division of  
Biological Sciences

Division of Biological Sciences professor Doug Emlen has had quite the year. In October, his book "Animal Weapons: The Evolution of Battle" was awarded the 2015 Phi Beta Kappa Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the literature of science.

In November, he was named 2015 Montana Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Now he is being elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), one of the oldest and most prestigious honorary societies and a leading center for policy research in the United States. Academy Fellows include faculty representation from some of the top universities in the nation, including Harvard, Yale, and the University of California, Berkeley.

Emlen's research explores the incredible weapons we see in the animal world and how they inform the way human beings protect themselves. He is the first and only Fellow ever elected to the AAAS from the state of Montana.

## 2016 Richard Drake Writing Award Recipients

**William Matross**

*English  
Anthropology*

**Winning Essay:**

The Shaved Chin:  
Cultural Imperialism  
and Gender Norms in  
Dwarves



**Madison Hinrichs**

*English*

**Winning Essay:**

Contemplations of a  
Wild Poet

## NOTES



## UM ROTC honors the past, looks to the future

On April 15, the University of Montana ROTC program celebrated the national ROTC's 100th birthday at Schreiber Gymnasium. The event recognized ROTC's long and storied tradition of producing exceptional leaders, and kicked off a new fundraising effort to renovate the Hall of Fame in the Schreiber Gym atrium and replace the cannon used at UM football games. Upgrades to the Hall of Fame displays will serve as a testament to those who have shown tremendous leadership and courage through their service. Once retired, the current cannon will become a monument outside Schreiber Gym. If you are interested in contributing to this project, contact Major Kris Pyette at [kris.pyette@mso.umt.edu](mailto:kris.pyette@mso.umt.edu).

## Communication Studies students take home top prize at regional research conference

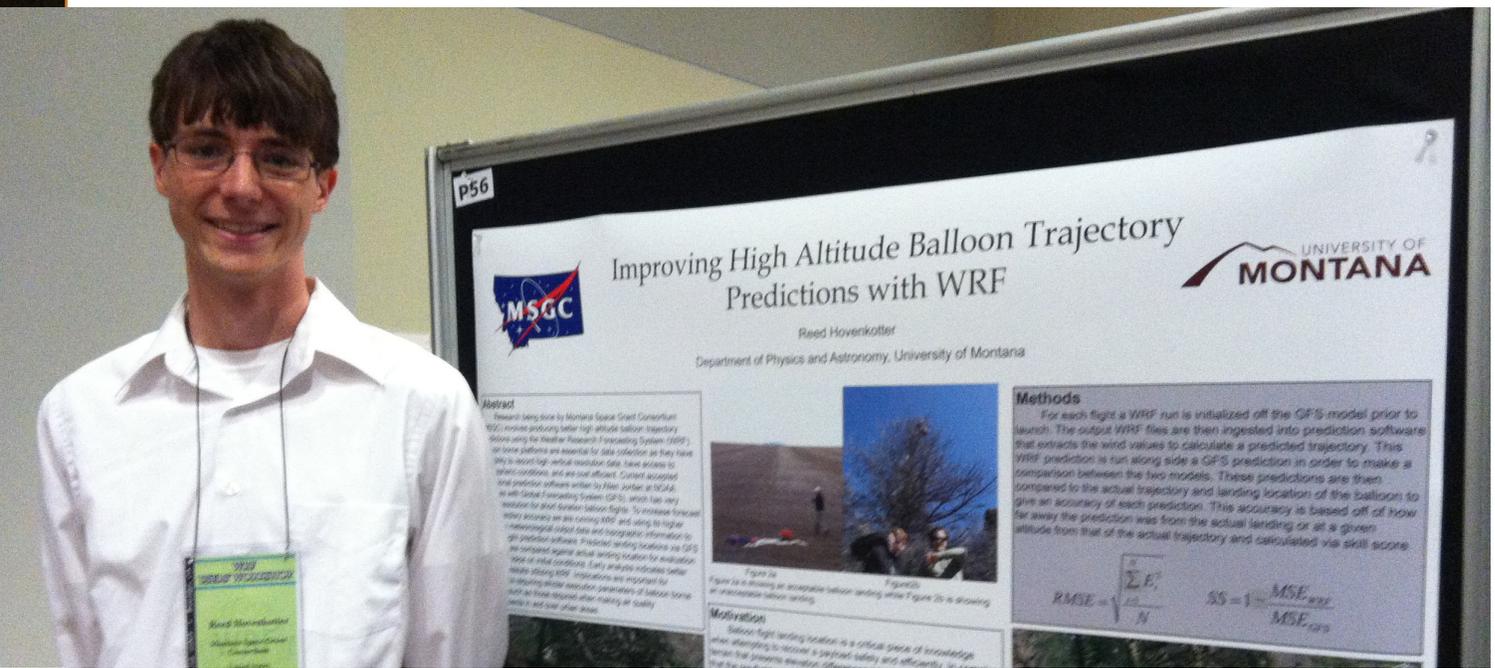
Communication Studies students Tyler Morgan, Mackensie Salitstky, Katjana Stutzer, and JR Thomas won the top paper award at the Western States Communication Association's Undergraduate Research Conference, held on February 27th, 2016 in San Diego, CA. Their paper was based on a nationally-distributed online survey that examined the extent to which people's self-reported relationship satisfaction and relationship confidence correlated with the use of Facebook to monitor their romantic partner's social network interactions.



## H&S student-athletes achieving on and off the field

Seniors Mackenzie Akins of UM Soccer (right) and Nate Harris of UM Football (left) rounded out their student-athlete careers as four-time Academic All-Big Sky Conference honorees. H&S had 37 H&S student-athletes named to Fall and Winter Academic All-Big Sky Teams this year, comprising nearly half of the 101 Academic All-Big Sky Conference honorees on campus. Other four-time honorees in H&S include 2015 Rhodes Scholar finalist and UM Football captain Derek Crittenden (Chemistry), Women's basketball's Hannah Doran (Biochemistry). Akins will depart UM with a Communication Studies degree and Harris with a degree in Sociology.





# Reed Hovenkotter

## Physics

### What attracted you to the area of physics?

Born in Missoula and raised in Polson, my childhood was filled with playing video games with my brother and doing science projects with my mom. I've always had a passion for math, science and computers. When I got to high school my hunger for knowledge on these subjects resulted in taking nearly every single math, science, and computer class they had to offer. By the time I headed off to college it was obvious that I would pursue a degree in one of those three fields. Choosing which field specifically, however, was much harder than expected.

### How did you ultimately decide?

I arrived on campus freshman year with a plan to pursue mathematics, but after spending time with the Physics Department I changed my decision immediately. Physics appeared to be exactly what I was looking for with ties to all three of my passions. I actually spent my first day as a UM student scrambling to get into all the classes necessary for a Physics degree.

### Have you participated in any research?

Once settled on my choice of major I started to get

more involved with the Physics Department. The second semester of my freshman year I landed a job setting up the introductory-level physics laboratories. This opportunity was a turning point for my undergraduate career. The connections I made through that position ultimately resulted in a research position with Montana Space Grant Consortium BOREALIS, where I studied atmospheric science the summer after my freshman year. I continued to work for BOREALIS throughout my college career with my research focused on weather forecasting. The biggest research project I ended up working on was writing code to predict the flight path trajectory of a high altitude balloon.

### Now that you're graduating, what happens next?

My hunger for knowledge is never satisfied. I often spend my free time scouring the Internet for articles and videos that might help explain the phenomena of our universe. Ultimately, my hope is to find a dream job within a technology field, or perhaps enroll in graduate school at some point down the road. Either way, I will continue to gain insight about our universe from the fields for which I have the most passion.



# Andrea Johnson

**Physics**

**Computer Science/  
Mathematics**

Andrea Johnson is not particularly interested in free time. Not only will the senior graduate this May with a B.S. in Computer Science and Mathematics and a B.A. in Physics; she will do so with high honors in Computer Science-Mathematics, honors in Physics, and Mortar Board Outstanding Senior Awards in both majors. But for Johnson, who racked up a 3.97 cumulative GPA while simultaneously being a part of the Davidson Honors College, academics were only the beginning.

"Being part of the physics program was an incredible experience," Johnson says of her time at UM. "They created an environment that fostered learning as well as collegiality amongst students. Physics can be a very time intensive major, and the department, especially Physics advisor Mark Reiser, puts a tremendous amount of effort in getting the students involved in social activities and making it welcoming to incoming physics majors."

Since arriving as an undergraduate, Johnson has traveled to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California to research photoionization spectra of various trans-iron elements with Physics associate professor David Macaluso, investigated hyperbolic corkscrew tangles in topology with Mathematical Sciences associate professor Eric Chesebro, and worked as a research assistant for University of Washington Physics associate professor Boris Blinov in Seattle, where she spent an entire summer trapping chains of ions to advance the implementation of quantum circuits.

There were also internships in professional settings that included the Lake Missoula Security Group (Missoula-based), Agile Data Solutions (Philadelphia-based), and most recently Fast Enterprises in Colorado, where she developed software for Colorado's department of motor vehicles.

"My work in the Physics department has not only helped shape the way I view professional challenges," Johnson says, "but it also provided me with opportunities to work with people from multiple professional backgrounds. I really love physics, and the students, faculty and staff really made being in the department such an excellent experience."

Johnson has also tutored introductory physics students at UM, helping them to both understand the challenging concepts that physics can present and the application of those concepts in real-world scenarios. She continues to work at FAST Enterprises as a software development intern, and will work there full time after graduation. Until then, she says she'll work on a few side projects here and there, and get used to having a little free time on her hands once again.



# Verena Henners

## Geography

### What brought you to UM?

I am from Berlin, Germany and initially transferred to the University of Montana in 2011 to complete my undergraduate studies. After finishing my Bachelor of Science degree in Geography with an option in Physical Geography and a minor in Mountain Studies 2013, I decided to also pursue my graduate degree at UM. I am currently enrolled in a Master of Science program in Geography with a focus on GIS and Cartography. I am also pursuing a certificate in GIS Technologies.

### Why did you choose to pursue Geography?

Pursuing my studies in the Geography program at the University of Montana gave me the chance to work towards my career goals while learning about a number of social and environmental issues that I am highly interested in. I love that geography allows me to study issues from both the human and the natural angle and thus gain a broader view.

### Have you been involved in any interesting research?

Last summer, I was part of a team of GIS students that produced high resolution maps of the Parsa Wildlife Reserve in Nepal through digitizing from satellite images. **The maps are being used to prevent tiger poaching.** It was great to apply my cartography knowledge for a conservation project, especially since conservation is something I am highly passionate about. I will be working on the next part of the project, producing maps of Manas National Park in India, over the summer.

### How would you describe your experiences at UM?

Overall I loved being a part of the Geography program. Because the department is relatively small it was always easy to get in contact with professors and I found the overall atmosphere in the department very positive and personal. I particularly valued the good collaboration with my advisor and the professors I worked for as a Teaching Assistant as well as working together with other students. The GIS and Cartography classes I took through the department of geography were the classes that I especially enjoyed, and the field studies I participated in gave me the chance to experience what I had learned about in class in the real world.

Graduate students like Verena occupy a unique niche in the ecosystem of the University. Transcending title, they are at once faculty and student, researcher and recruiter: assisting in delivering a quality undergraduate experience, essential to the conduct of research and scholarship, their academic pursuits enough to attract the best faculty to a university. To find out how you can help support H&S graduate students, contact H&S Senior Director of Development Marci Bozeman at [marci.bozeman@mso.umt.edu](mailto:marci.bozeman@mso.umt.edu).

# Alumni in Print

### What are your plans after graduation?

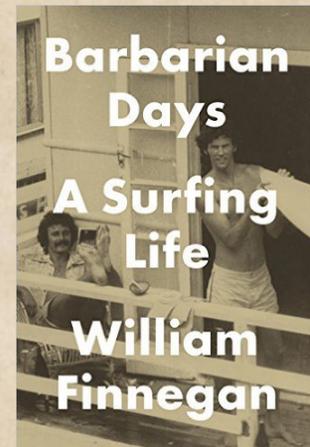
My long term goals are working in the field of Geographic Information Systems and Cartography, hopefully with a focus on cartographic design. During the summer, I will be involved in a GIS project working for Panthera through the Department of Geography for which I will help produce high resolution maps of the Manas National Park in India. Currently, I am working as a Teaching Assistant for the Department of Geography, a job through which I can help other students and share the knowledge I have gained during my studies with them.

### You'll be making the world a better place, in other words?

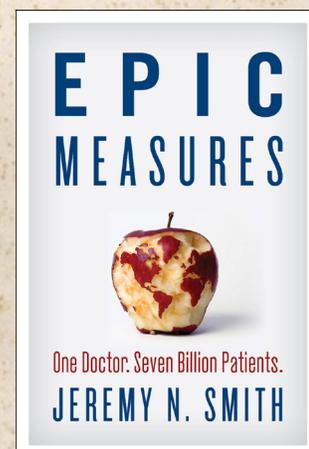
I am hoping to use the skills that I acquired during my studies at the University of Montana, in particular my GIS skills, to work towards improving environmental and social conditions and to raise awareness about the situation of disadvantaged groups of people. I hope that in the future I will be able to positively represent the University of Montana and the Geography program through good and successful work.



Under the guidance of Kevin McNanigal, a lecturer in the Geography Department, Verena and her fellow students made the most detailed topographic records ever produced of the 155,000-acre tiger habitat in the Parsa Wildlife Preserve, Nepal. The result of a partnership with Panthera, a global wild cat conservation organization, and Forestry Professor Mark Hebblewhite, the maps will be used by Parsa rangers to help protect endangered tiger populations from poachers.



**William Finnegan (MFA, '78) has been awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his 2015 memoir "Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life."** In *Barbarian Days*, Finnegan tells tales of adventure and self-realization brought about from his passion for surfing, on which he journeyed to distant corners of the globe, including Southeast Asia, Africa and the South Pacific. He currently resides in New York City, where he's been a staff writer for the *New Yorker Magazine* since 1987.



**Jeremy N. Smith (MFA, '05) continues to generate excitement with his new book, "Epic Measures: One Doctor. Seven Billion Patients," which he released in early 2015.** The book follows the true story of a 20-year, 500-scientist, \$100 million moonshot attempt to track and quantify every illness, injury, and death for everyone on Earth. Since its release it has become a Barnes & Noble Editor's Recommendation, one of iBooks 20 Best Books of April, and an Amazon #1 Best Seller in Medicine. This past fall, Bill Gates called "Epic Measures" a "fascinating read," and listed it as one of 17 Books Everyone Should Read. Smith is currently working on a new book, and served as moderator of the 4th annual H&S Dialogue this spring.



# Katrina Mullan

Cutting through  
the

# Layers

Economics

Originally from the United Kingdom, assistant professor Katrina Mullan arrived at UM in 2012, joining the Economics faculty after holding postdoctoral positions in North Carolina and California. With a PhD in Environment and Development Economics from Cambridge University, and having served as advisor on environmental policy for the United Kingdom government and the European Environment Agency, UM couldn't be happier that she is here.

"The faculty is energetic, and highly dedicated to both teaching and research," she says. "As a junior faculty member, I have found the department to be very supportive, and I know that our undergraduate and graduate students feel the same."

## 2016 H&S Teaching Awards

**The William Reynolds Award for Excellence in Teaching across the Curriculum**

**The David B. Friend Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Introductory Level**



**David Shively**  
*Geography*

"He shows extraordinary commitment to his students and has the characteristics of a superior educator at all levels of the curriculum."

The William Reynolds Award was established to recognize faculty members for their excellence in teaching at all levels of the curriculum, student advising and mentoring, and accessibility to students beyond normal office hours. This award is presented by the H&S Advisory Board.

**Michael Cassens**  
*Computer Science*

"He displays a genuine care and concern... brings incredible energy and effort to all courses he teaches."



The David B. Friend Memorial Award was established to recognize excellence in teaching by non-tenure-track faculty members teaching our introductory courses, student advising and mentoring, and accessibility to students beyond normal office hours.

Mullan believes in engaging her students actively, guiding her classes through the process of developing independent research questions and using existing empirical literature and original data analysis to draw conclusions. Those in her upper-division and graduate classes, for example, work on projects that allow them to develop these skills while learning more about subjects that they have personal interest in.

"The students I have taught at UM are clear about what they hope to gain from their degrees," she says. "They also bring a wide range of perspectives from a variety of backgrounds, which generates fascinating discussion on such topics as the costs and benefits of environmental policy."

When she isn't teaching, Mullan is working on her research: A quantitative and data-driven investigation into the determinants and consequences of land use change.

"My research focuses on the trade-offs between forest conservation and economic development," Mullan says. "I aim to quantify the benefits of deforestation for local households in tropical forest countries, and highlight the potential role for economic incentives for avoided deforestation."

Her research has implications for global efforts to address climate change through reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as for domestic development and conservation policies.

More recent research applies the same methods and theoretical concepts to landowners in the US, examining the role of natural amenities and climate in driving rural residential development in the mountain northwest, and how oil and gas exploration in the Great Plains affects agricultural incomes and the way rangelands are used.

In all cases, the key challenge is to understand the dynamics of how land use determines economic status and ecosystem services, which in turn affect land use.

"Much of my research is interdisciplinary," Mullan says. "I work with geographers, hydrologists, and ecologists to answer questions about the feedbacks between human and natural systems. The advantage of working at UM is that there are many smart, engaged researchers thinking about similar issues from other disciplines, so the potential for collaboration is high."

## 2016 H&S Teaching Awards

### The Helen and Winston Cox Educational Excellence Award



**Meradeth Snow**  
*Anthropology*

"She has an enthusiasm for teaching...and is a source of inspiration to become a professional in the field."

**Cory Palmer**  
*Mathematical Sciences*

"His door is always open...he operates with the idea that if a student has a question, he has time to answer it."



The Helen and Winston Cox Educational Excellence Award was established to encourage and reward junior faculty members in the area of teaching. Criteria for evaluation include superior teaching, student advising and mentoring; accessibility to students beyond normal office hours; scholarly and professional activity; and campus/community service.

# Finding Reason in Crisis



## Robin Saha

### Environmental Studies

Environmental Studies associate professor Robin Saha's research has been getting local and national attention recently for shedding light on the water crisis in Flint, Michigan where residents' water became contaminated with lead.

"Flint is a clear case of environmental justice," says Saha. "It's a persistent problem that not all communities enjoy a decent quality of life or the same level of environmental protection that most of us do."

For over two decades Saha has researched the social and geographic distribution of pollution sources, such as incinerators and hazardous waste facilities. In 2007, he co-authored an update of the United Church of Christ's 1987 landmark report *Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States*, which revealed that the nation's hazardous waste facilities and contaminated sites are persistently concentrated in minority and low-income communities.

His recent research published in *Environmental Research Letters* illuminates how and why this problem occurs. According to Saha, the placement of noxious facilities tends to follow the path of least resistance.

"Communities lacking political clout, good local economies, and strong social ties are particularly vulnerable to build up of environmental burdens from multiple facilities," says Saha, noting that when it comes to such communities living in unhealthy and hazardous conditions:

"There are a lot of 'Flints' out there."

Professor Saha also teams up with various public interest groups, most recently the Center for Effective Government and contributed to a report titled *Living in the Shadow of Danger: Poverty, Race and Unequal Chemical Facility Hazards*. He believes that research should be relevant to solving pressing problems and needs, and that affected

## Our Faculty

populations should be integrally involved in the research process and have access and ability to use the results to improve their lives. He has used this approach to help address environmental health issues with substandard housing on the Blackfeet Reservation and to empower the rural Superfund community of Opportunity, Montana to participate in cleanup decisions.

Saha also involves his classes in these projects and demonstrates how they can be used to address real world problems. This is especially true of issues pertaining to local action on climate change and campus sustainability. His Local Climate Solutions class, for example, conducted a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the City of Missoula. Another helped the UM Office of Sustainability with a green cleaners policy.

"Fitting projects into a semester timeframe can be tricky," Saha says. "Sometimes one class has to hand off the baton to another to make a lasting impact."

Nonetheless, Saha provides students with unique experiential learning that has tangible benefits to communities.

"In many ways," says Environmental Sciences Program director Phil Condon, of Saha's community-based approach to teaching, "that is the best of what an academic institution can do."

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to get  
involved?**



**Gifts to H&S enhance the student experience, improve academic programs, further research efforts, and enrich the culture and community of UM and Missoula.**

**Contact:**

**Senior Director of Development**

**Marci Bozeman**

**[marci.bozeman@mso.umt.edu](mailto:marci.bozeman@mso.umt.edu)**

**and find out how you can contribute in a way that is meaningful to you!**

## Recognizing Service

Dean Comer offers the thanks and appreciation on behalf of the entire College to outgoing H&S Advisory Board Members Dr. William (Bill) Reynolds (below) and Mrs. Lauren Descamps (left) for their years of commitment and support.



College of  
**Humanities  
& Sciences**  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



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College of Humanities and Sciences  
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If you have supported the College of Humanities and Sciences in the past – thank you!

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Or send a check to:

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Missoula, MT 59807

Please add a note on the reference line of your check if you would like to  
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If you have any questions about donations, please contact:

Marci Bozeman at [marci.bozeman@mso.umt.edu](mailto:marci.bozeman@mso.umt.edu)

or by calling 406.243.2646

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

### **Coming to Campus?**

The College and the University of Montana have various events, lectures, programs and classes going on throughout the year.

Please contact us if you would like to visit the College, get a tour of the new buildings on campus,  
attend a class, meet the Dean, or chat about your experience at the University of Montana.

