“The beginning is always today.”

— Mary Shelley
Alumni News

Sharma Shields’ (MFA 2004) novel, The Sasquatch Hunter’s Almanac, has been optioned for television rights by Legendary Pictures. Entertainment Weekly has identified Shields as "one of the 25 stars on the rise in 2015." The book has been getting great reviews. Kirkus: "Imagine a mashup of Moby-Dick and Kafka’s Metamorphosis (with a hearty dash of Twin Peaks thrown in)."

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Jeremy Smith’s (MFA 2005) Epic Measures: One Doctor. Seven Billion Patients (Harper Collins, 2015) is 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: the biggest of Big Data ever -- iBooks’ #1 nonfiction selection for April!

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Perry “Wynne” Hungerford (BA 2014) will be attending the fully funded MFA program at University of Florida in the fall.

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Khaty Xiong’s (MFA 2013) chapbook, “Deer Hour” is out with New Michigan/DIAGRAM. She has another book of poetry coming out with Apogee.

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English News | Volume 6, Issue 2 | Spring 2015
The English Department participated in many special events during Spring 2015. In February, the Film Studies Program co-sponsored the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, a prestigious venue for nonfiction films about the American West.

In March, the Creative Writing Program hosted its second conference on Thinking Its Presence: Race, Creative Writing and Literary Studies. Major speakers included Claudia Rankine, Marilyn Chin, Eduardo Chirinos, Thomas Sayers Ellis, Beth Loffreda, Sarah Shun-lien Bynum, Ruth Vanita, and William YellowRobe, Jr.

In April, Irish Studies Program welcomed the Consul General of Ireland, Philip Grant, and received recognition as a national center of Irish and Gaelic Studies.

At the end of this semester, several English Teaching Program students received College of Education awards for their excellent academic achievements and their strong commitment to the teaching profession.

We close this year by announcing the retirements of Professor Heather Bruce and Professor Jill Bergman.

As we look forward to 2015-2016, the English Department is excited to offer new programs in Literature and the Environment at the undergraduate level and Ecocriticism at the graduate level.

~ I hope you have a good summer. Please keep in touch!
This spring, we honor the careers and achievements of two professors: Dr. Heather Bruce and Dr. Jill Bergman. Through their teaching, scholarship/research, and service, Professor Bruce and Professor Bergman contributed greatly to the department’s national and state reputation. We thank them for their years of service to our department, the university, and the profession; we wish them well as they transition to retirement.

**D r. Heather Bruce** earned her Ph.D. at the University of Utah and joined the English Department at the University of Montana as an Assistant Professor in 2000. Professor Bruce became an Associate Professor in 2002, earned tenure in 2004, and attained the rank of Professor in 2008. During her years at University of Montana, Professor Bruce wrote grants and directed the Montana Writing Project.

Professor Bruce was a passionate literacy educator, committed to teaching students the theories and pedagogies of rhetoric/composition and literary criticism. For the Montana Writing Project, Professor Bruce designed and taught new graduate courses related to Indian Education for All and place-based education.

Professor Bruce published many peer-reviewed articles on eco-criticism, feminist pedagogy, peacebuilding, and social justice. She co-authored (with Anna Baldwin and Christa Umphrey) *Sherman Alexie in the Classroom: “This is not a silent movie. Our voices will save our lives.”* (National Council of Teachers of English) and wrote *Literacies, Lies and Silences: Girls Writing Lives in the Classroom* (Peter Lang International Academic Publishers).

Professor Bruce served the university and profession in many significant ways. She was chair of the Search Committee for the Director of Composition, co-chair of the University Diversity Advisory Council, member of the University Writing Committee, and member of the Professional Education Unit Advisory Committee. From 2004-2008, she served on the College Section Steering Committee of NCTE and was its Assistant Chair (2006-2008). Through her commitment to the Montana Writing Project, she has promoted best practices in the teaching of writing for pre K-12 students across the state.
Dr. Jill Bergman earned her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois and joined the English Department at the University of Montana as an Assistant Professor in 1999. Professor Bergman became an Associate Professor in 2004, earned tenure in 2005, and attained the rank of Professor in 2011. From 2009 to 2013, she served as Chair of the department.

Professor Bergman was a highly respected and popular teacher. She designed and taught new courses on feminist literary theory and nineteenth century women writers. Because she valued collaboration across disciplines, her courses were often cross-listed with Women’s and Gender Studies as well as Liberal Studies.

Professor Bergman did extensive research and published widely on American literature, feminist theory, and women writers. A prolific writer of peer-reviewed articles, Professor Bergman authored two books: The Motherless Child in the Novels of Pauline Hopkins (Louisiana State University Press) and A Woman’s Place is Not in the Home: The Role of Place in the Life and Writing of Charlotte Perkins Gilman (University of Alabama Press, forthcoming). She also co-authored (with Susan Bernardi of Carroll College) Our Sisters’ Keepers: Nineteenth-Century Benevolence Literature by American Women (University of Alabama Press, 2005).

Professor Bergman served the department, the college and her profession in many important ways. Before she became Chair of the English Department, she served as Assistant to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (2003-2006) and then became Associate Chair of the English Department (2008-2009). Among Professor Bergman’s many service contributions, most outstanding was her leadership as Chair of the “Gilman Goes West: The 5th International Conference on Charlotte Perkins Gilman,” held at University of Montana in 2011. Professor Bergman served as Treasurer of the Pauline Hopkins Society.

“To attain happiness in another world we need only to believe something, while to secure it in this world we must do something.”
— Charlotte Perkins Gilman
Congratulations to the MFA & MA Class of 2015!

**MFA in Creative Writing**

Christopher H. Benz—Fiction  
Courtney Melissa Bird—Fiction  
Sarah Dozor—Fiction  
Michael S. Hicks—Fiction  
Sarah Kahn—Fiction  
John Kemmick—Fiction  
Daniel Craig Meyer—Fiction  
Julia Ohman—Fiction  
William Brett Puryear—Fiction  
Michelle Seibert—Fiction  
Caitlin Stainken—Fiction (fall 2014)  
Michèle Van Haecke—Fiction  
Virginia Zech—Fiction (fall 2014)  
Kimberly Covill—Nonfiction  
Brendan Fitzgerald—Nonfiction  
Caitlin Murray MacDougall—Nonfiction  
Rikka Emery Wommack—Nonfiction  
Caylin Capra-Thomas—Poetry  
Max Kaisler—Poetry  
Jordan Konkol—Poetry  
Adam C. Lambert—Poetry  
Allison Joanne Linville—Poetry  
Rachel Claire Mindell—Poetry  
Alicia M. Mountain—Poetry  
Meghan O'Brien—Poetry  
Connor Willett—Poetry

**MA in English**

Jennifer Ellis—Teaching (fall 2014)  
Jill Melcher—Teaching (fall 2014)  
Tarren Lee Andrews—Literature  
Margaret Louise Henry—Literature  
Giordano Lahaderne—Literature  
Sarah Sydney Lane—Literature  
Sara Laskoski—Literature  
Rachel Claire Mindell—Literature  
Lindsay R. Stephens—Literature  
Michèle Van Haecke—Literature
English Department honors Four Mortar Board Outstanding Seniors

This year, the English Department faculty voted to honor four undergraduates as Mortar Board Outstanding Seniors: Rose Dickson (Teaching), Micah Fields (Creative Writing), Marshall Granger (Film Studies), and Jillian Smith (Literature). Each of these individuals will receive a Mortar Board medallion and speak at the English Department graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 16, at noon in the University Center Ballroom.

Rose Dickson has served on the Missoula County Public School Board of Trustees and has co-authored a Kess Revolving Energy Loan (KRELF) proposal for a Pedal Power PA System. She serves as a board member of the Missoula Writing Collaborative and will be its Summer Camp Director later this year. Rose student taught at Willard Alternative School during Fall 2015.

Micah Fields is the recipient of the Candice K. Brown Memorial Scholarship and the James Crumley Memorial Scholarship. He is also the winner of an Associated Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Intro Journals Award for Creative Nonfiction. Micah has received an Iowa Arts Fellowship at the University of Iowa’s Nonfiction Writing Program.

Marshall Granger has produced two award-winning documentaries: one won best documentary at the Magic City Film Festival, and the other received a People’s Choice award at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. He produced a seven-part on-line series on Montana-based songwriters and received a Big Sky Film Grant from the Montana Film Office in 2014. Marshall contributes his talents to The Roxy Theatre where he is learning about non-profit organizations, business management, and cinema production.

Jillian Smith is a member of the Davidson Honors College and is a recipient of the Opus Scholarship in Creative Writing. In 2007-2008, Jillian spent six months volunteering in East Africa (mostly in Kenya) where she taught in a school operated by an orphanage that served children of all ages. In July 2015, she will travel to Vietnam to teach English.
Special thank you to all of the donors and contributions that make scholarship and award funds for higher learning in the humanities possible.

Graduate Students
CutBank Editor-in-Chief 2015-2016—William Wallace
Undergraduate RA 2015-2016—Alicia Bones
Second Wind Coordinators 2015-2016—Eve Kenneally and Hannah Withers
Merriam-Frontier Award—Jolene Brink and JP Kemmick
Greta Wrolstad Travel Award—Max Kaisler
Nettie Weber Scholarships—Jolene Brink & Chris Benz
Academy of American Poets College Prize Winner—Allison Linville;
Honorable Mention – Rachel Mindell
Candice K. Brown Memorial Scholarship in Creative Writing—Ari Asercion
Goedicke/Robinson Scholarship—Diana Roffman & Lauren Loftis
The Husted-Jones Scholarship for Creative Writing—Derek Heckman
Creative Writing Scholarship—Phillip Meek
Alice Passano Hancock Davidson Scholarship—Lauren Ward
A.B. Guthrie Memorial Fund—Read Trammel

Undergraduate Students
Helen J. Olson—Chase Greenfield, Makenzie Thompson & Will Matross
Rose Southworth Megee—Ryan Hitchcock
Maureen Mansfield—Joel Kempff
Walter King—Daniel Parks
Candice K. Brown Memorial Scholarship in Creative Writing—Kalen Walther
The Welch Scholarship—Antonio Torres
The Opus Scholarship—Joel Kempff, Lauren Korn & Zöe Mays
James Crumley Memorial Scholarship—Hanna Ziegler
Margaret Beebe Memorial Scholarship—Spencer Ruchti
Freeman Award (Jean Kountz and Hal G. Stearns Scholarship fund) - Daniel Parks
We are delighted to announce that three graduate students in English—Kim Covill, Heather Jurva, and Sarah Kahn—are recipients of 2015-16 Bertha Morton Scholarships, the University’s most prestigious award for graduate students. The competition spans the University, so winning three awards testifies to the candidates’ accomplishments.

Kim Coville is completing an MFA in Nonfiction and plans to pursue a Master’s in Literature, focusing on ecocriticism, that allows her to explore further her passion for the backcountry, which is key to both her creative writing and her academic identity.

Heather Jurva is completing a double Master’s degree in Nonfiction (MFA) and Teaching, and impressed the judges with the range and depth of her publications in journalism, as well as her commitment to her intended profession as a teacher.

Sarah Kahn is also pursuing a double degree: an MFA in Fiction, as well as an MA in Literature. Her burgeoning list of publications, her community teaching experience, and her social justice work made her an attractive candidate.

-Farewell-

This May the department will say goodbye to its steadfast Interim Composition Coordinator, Jimmy Kendall. Jimmy will begin his doctoral work in the Culture and Society program in the School of Education at University of Utah. Although we will miss his irreverent humor and dedication to cultural studies, we are excited to for him and wish him well on his journey to Utah.
Interested in How Literary Studies Might Help to Save the Planet?  
ANNOUNCING NEW OPTIONS IN  
LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT (UG)  
AND ECOCRITICISM (G) IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Beginning in the 2015-2016 Academic Year, the English Department will offer new programs of study focusing upon the relevance of literature to environmental and social justice issues. The new options preserve much of the breadth and depth of the traditional literature option even as they define courses of study focused on literature that reflects human engagements with more-than-human environments.

For more information on these innovative new areas of study, please see links available on the English Department home page.

**or contact**
Prof. Louise Economides  
louise.economides@mso.umt.edu

Prof. David Gilcrest  
david.gilcrest@umontana.edu

Photo by Adam Andis | Freezeout Lake
Nancy Cook published a review of Julene Bair's memoir, *The Ogallala Road: A Memoir of Love and Reckoning* in *World Literature Today*, and in November she presented a paper, “Running North: Americans on the Lam and the Canadian Border,” at the annual meeting of the Western Literature Association, Victoria, BC.

Rob Browning’s essay “Anna Letitia Barbauld’s ‘A Summer Evening’s Meditation’ and the Cosmic Voyage Since Paradise Lost” will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* (a publication of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies).


“Literature is my Utopia.”

— Helen Keller
Adjunct Assistant Professor Anna Baldwin was a speaker at TEDxBozeman in March. The title of her talk was "Finding My Teacher Voice." Anna was also honored at the NEA Foundation Gala in Washington, DC, in February and was a winner of the Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence.

Professor Beverly Ann Chin presented “Read like a Writer, Write like a Reader: Strategies that Help Writers Support their Stance in Persuasive Writing” at National Council of Teachers of English in Washington, DC, and “Successful Strategies that Help Elementary and Secondary Students Improve their Persuasive Writing” at National Catholic Education Association in Orlando, FL. As Chair of the UM Writing Committee, she led the 2015 Writing Retreat, an important part of the University-wide Program-level Writing Assessment (UPWA). This summer, Professor Chin will be an honored guest educator at the University of Jinan in China and a speaker at the International Federation of Teachers of English and the Conference on English Education in New York City.

~New Bundles of Joy~

Congratulations to Maria Mangold on the birth of her baby boy, Otto.

Congratulations also to Erin Saldin on the birth of her baby girl, Frankie.

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

– Albert Einstein
ENGLISH TEACHING STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SCIENCES

At the spring College of Education gala, several students (graduates and undergraduates) in our English Teaching Program received awards for their excellent academic record and their strong commitment to the teaching profession.

Jill Melcher, a December 2014 graduate of the Master of Arts in English (Teaching) program, received the 2015 Marlene Bachmann Student Teaching Award by the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. She completed her teaching internship at Helena High School in Helena, MT, under the guidance of English teachers Matt Brophy and Gretchen Edelen. Jill is currently working in the Helena Middle School Library and serves as the Technology Liaison for the Montana Association of Teachers of English Language Arts.

Caitlyn Berkowitz, who will student teach in English in Fall 2015, received the Henderson Foundation Environmental Education Scholarship.

Emily Vascimi and Nicolas Schulz received Phi Delta Kappa Chapter 78 Undergraduate Education Scholarships. Mariah Rys-Sikora, who will receive her secondary English teaching license next year, received the Phi Delta Kappa Chapter 78 Graduate Education Scholarship.

Melanie Goeddel received the Vernon and Myrtle Glascock Scholarship in Education.

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Amy’s first year writing curriculum, which included her daily assignments developed for TA’s, was accepted for publication by Norton, in the teaching guide to the program’s textbook, Everyone’s An Author. Her verse novel, Radical Bloom, will be published by Folded Word Press in Spring 2017.
The creative writing program celebrated the 50th anniversary of the MFA program with a reception at AWP in Minneapolis in April. Current students, alumni, faculty, perspective students and curious conference goers gathered to hear readings from alumni poets Jon Davis, Jeremy Pataki, Henrietta Goodman and Joshua Corey. We also heard from the winners of the Cutbank chapbook contest. A splendid time was had by all.

Thinking Its Presence Conference, March 12 – 14, was a huge success. Highlights include the keynote speaker address by Claudia Rankine, a reading and jazz performance by Thomas Sayers Ellis & his group of poets/musicians called “Heroes Are Gang Leaders” that took place at the Missoula Art Museum, a special department visit from Marilyn Chin where she read haikus and discussed her poetry, a performance of William YellowRobe’s play “Native American Paranormal Society,” and readings by Sarah Shun-Lien Bynum, Ofelia Zepeda and the UM MFA students & alumni at Shakespeare & Co.– to name just a few. The conference is mentioned in the Boston Review and John Keene’s blog.

P rageeta Sharma’s article, “Model Minority, Dreaming and Cheap Signaling” is in the March 10 issue of the Boston Review.
David Gates’ new novella and collection of short stories, A Hand Reached Down to Guide Me, will be published by Knopf on May 19.

Kevin Canty’s story, “Happy Endings,” originally published in New Ohio Review, has been selected by T.C. Boyle and Heidi Pitlor for the Best American Short Stories of 2015. His story, “Mayfly,” from The New Yorker, was chosen as a distinguished selection for Best American Short Stories of 2014. His story, The Florida Motel, is out with Granta. Canty is teaching this summer in Lithuania with Summer Literary Seminars.

Joanna Klink’s fourth book of poems, Excerpts from a Secret Prophecy, was released in April by Penguin.

Congratulations to Debra Magpie Earling who is the recipient of a 2015 Montana Governor’s Arts Award. Debra was nominated by Lisa Simon and Caroline Patterson. In Caroline’s nomination letter, she said Earling’s books “reveal the darkness, complexity, music, and tragedy experienced by Salish women.” Read the official announcement from the State of Montana Newsroom.

Deirdre McNamer traveled to Washington, D.C., the weekend of May 1-2, for the PEN/Faulkner award ceremony at the Folger Shakespeare Library. She served as a judge with Marc Fitten and Alexander Chee. The judges chose Atticus Lish’s Preparation for the Next Life as the winner. The PEN/Faulkner honors the best work in fiction by an American in a single calendar year.
MFA Graduate Studies

In March, Antonya Nelson met with graduate students to workshop their stories, gave a craft lecture called “Strategies Toward Revising a Bullet-Proof Short Story” and read a story from her recent collection, _Funny Once_.

From the AWP Intro Journals Project in Creative Nonfiction, Brett Puryear received honorable mention for his story "Acolytes."

Kelly McClorey won the Big Snowy contest (writers 30 and under) for the _Montana Quarterly_. Her story, “Throne,” will be published in the summer issue.

Alicia Mountain’s poem “This is a Test” is published in _America’s AID’s Magazine_. Her poem "How We Keep Going" was accepted for the "Everyday Epiphanies" issue of _Spillway_ due to be published in June 2015, and "Purpose Is the Body and the Un-body" is coming out in this year’s _Barrow Street_. Her poem "A Deer Mistaken for a Statue of a Deer" was picked up for publication by _Pleiades_.

Sarah Kahn has a story out with _Map Literary_ and stories accepted for publication by the following journals: Sweet, _Empty Sink Publishing_ and _Bluestem_.

Rachel Mindell has four poems up at _Softblow_ and two forthcoming from _Yemassee_. She has three poems in the summer issue of _Pool_, and one in the next issue of _Gris-Gris_.

Jolene Brink’s poem, “TransAsia (live),” will appear in an upcoming issue of the Belleville Park Pages. This little mag is sold at Shakespeare & Company (Paris), Foyles (London), City Lights (San Francisco) and Powell’s Books (Portland).

Ari Ascension (Ari Laurel) has a piece in Bitch Media, “What is a ‘Universal’ Story, Anyway?”

Eve Kenneally’s poem, “Taylor Swift Doesn’t Need a Role Model Because She’s Already on Top of the World” is forthcoming in Baldhip. She also has three poems forthcoming in Bluestocking Magazine.

Caitlin MacDougall had an internship with Elle Magazine in January.

Connor Willett’s poem, “I step into the refrigerator and curl,” will be published (with an audio snippet of Connor reading) in Barnstorm.

Kim Covill’s essay, “Hanging Out in Montana’s First All-Organic Brewery” will be published in the spring issue of Montana Quarterly.

Brooke Glass-O’Shea has a piece of flash fiction in the March issue of Jersey Devil Press.

Caylin Capra-Thomas has two poems in the latest issue of Ghost Town. She has had three poems accepted for publication in ILK, two poems, “[A name is an offering. I call you: ]” and “[You descend upon the motherless]” accepted for the July issue of Phantom Limb, and one poem, “Turning,” accepted for publication in Blue Earth Review. Her poem, “Passage,” has been accepted for publication in the spring issue of Crazyhorse.


Sierra Jacob has three poems published in LUMINA.

Rikka Wommack’s flash nonfiction piece “Rest Stop” and a story by JP Kemnick are both forthcoming in Beecher’s Magazine.
Irish Studies had another very successful spring semester. Spring began this year as it does every year, preparing for St. Patrick's Day. This is not only a very important cultural event; it is also that time of year when people's thoughts are on the wearing of the green, and Irish Studies' thoughts are on getting a share of the green – if you know what I mean. Once again, the share was very generous and indicative of the great support the program has in the community.

Fundraising

Traeloch O’Riordain would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed so much of their time, their talent and their treasure to grow and develop our Irish Studies program. Specifically, in this regard, the Friends of Irish Studies, and Sam and Julie Baldridge.

The Friends of Irish Studies: The Friends have been steadfast and loyal friends of the program from its inception. This group of hard-working men and women has raised most of the financial support needed to expand our program. They have also worked tirelessly to promote Irish culture and an awareness of the program in the community. They organize the St. Patrick’s Day banquet and auction, sponsor the film night, the music concerts, the Irish language immersion program in Butte, the hurling team and much more. Because of their unwavering commitment to Irish Studies we were able to offer this spring a course in Irish dance, a course in Irish music, and we were able to host two Fulbright Irish language teaching assistants. In the past they have also provided the funding for courses in Irish History, a foundational element of the program that recently made headlines because of the generosity of Sam and Julie Baldridge.

Sam Baldridge learned about the history of the Irish in Montana as a student of Dave Emmons at this university many years ago. Sam graduated, became a very successful business man, all the while retaining and indulging his love of history. In recent years, he and Julie became aware of Irish Studies’ specific need for funding to engage the services of an Irish historian. In deference to Sam’s former instructor, the Baldridge family donated $300,000 to establish the Dr. David Emmons Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies. This very generous gift solidifies the foundations of the program and enables Irish Studies to offer courses in Irish history every year. On behalf of Irish Studies we would like to congratulate Dave and extend our sincere thanks to Sam and Julie Baldridge.
Upcoming Events

National Collegiate Gaelic Athletic Association Hurling Championships [NCGAA]:
The University of Montana will host the NCGAA hurling championships over Memorial Day weekend this May. As many of you know, the Grizzlies Hurling team entered the national championships last year in New York and won! They then beat out Chicago to win the honour of hosting the finals this year. This is a big event and we encourage you all to come out and support them. No college team has ever won the NCGAA championship back to back. The Grizzlies are poised to make history.

Irish language Study Abroad:
The annual study abroad in the Gaeltacht [Irish-speaking area] of west Kerry takes place again this year. There will be a total of 11 students participating, eight of whom are from the University of Montana. This course is offered for UM credit and is officially recognized and supported by the Fulbright Commission. The program offers our students the opportunity to speak with native-speakers of the vernacular, develop their conversational and idiomatic command of the language, and experience the richness of Irish Gaelic culture as a living tradition.

Irish Language Immersion Course:
In 1904, an appeal from Ireland for funds to establish Irish immersion programs received its greatest support from New York and Butte, Montana. Today, there are two week-long Irish language immersion courses in the whole country: one is in New York; the other in Butte. Tradition is hard to kill! The course in Butte attracts people from all over the country. It runs this year from July 19 to July 26 and is offered for UM credit.

For more information, go to friendsofirishstudies.com
UM’s YouTube STEM Channel

Montana Hodges, an interdisciplinary Ph.D student whose curriculum focuses on both Film Studies and science education, will soon launch a YouTube channel featuring UM’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) researchers. The purpose of this channel is to reach groups traditionally under-represented in STEM by featuring our scientists’ projects as well as their often unlikely and interesting journeys into their respective STEM fields.

Montana has been working with Film Studies student producers, Jess McClain and Marshall Granger, and Creative Writing/Film Studies graduate, Tyler Cross, on videos featuring, among others, Garon “G. Wiz” Smith (Chemistry), Andrea and Don Stierle (Biology), and Jen Fowler, (Montana NASA Education Specialist). Professors Lisa Blank (Curriculum and Instruction) and Sean O’Brien (Film Studies) are supervising Montana’s thesis project, and plan to continue collaborating to ensure the longevity of this student-produced YouTube channel.

English Department Graduate Makes Documentary Splash in D.C.

Congratulations to Bryan Bello for the success of the April 29th debut of an unprecedented documentary series featuring videos made by members of Washington, D.C.’s homeless population. Bryan, a 2010 graduate in Literature who took a serious turn toward documentary production during his senior year at UM (Go Film Studies!), established a media-based organization for the city’s homeless, trained and mentored its producers, organized this series, and made his own documentary about the process as part of his Masters project in film at American University in Washington, DC. For more information about the project go to streetsense.org/film, and be sure to check out his outstanding trailer.

Robert Rustad’s Reading at Fact and Fiction

Film Studies 2014 graduate and boy-genius, Robert Rustad, discussed his recently published book, True Love’s Kiss: Disney Romance from Snow White to Frozen on April 24th at Missoula’s Fact and Fiction bookstore. The book was published by New Element Publishing and characterized by Sean O’Brien, Director of Film Studies, as “a beautifully written, theoretically sophisticated analysis of the trajectory of Disney’s romance genre that should prove valuable reading for both film and genre studies courses.” When asked what motivated him to complete such a sophisticated treatise in less than a year after graduating with a bachelors degree, the 23-year-old Robert responded: “I just thought it was time to get something out there.” Keep an eye out for what will likely be his next project: A documentary featuring the autistic children with whom he currently works. Keep going, Robert!
Contributions from English alumni and friends fund a variety of Department initiatives, programs and student scholarships. If you would like to support the College of Humanities and Sciences, English Department, please send check or money order to University of Montana Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159, with a note in the memo line designating it for the English Department.

Contributions are also accepted online.

For more information about making a gift (with no obligation to do so), please contact Marci Bozeman of the UM Foundation, Marci.Bozeman@mso.umt.edu, or (406) 243-2646.
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