



RAISING MONTANA

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2017-18

\$10 Million Gift to Expand UM's Education Programs

Building a better education for Montana: That's one of the primary goals of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.

Since 1985, the foundation has invested in scholarships, expanding support to include cutting-edge programs and facilities for teaching and learning at UM. Now, it has made another transformative gift to propel high-quality educational preparation for the next generation of Montanans.

With the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation's generous \$10 million gift, the University will construct an addition to the Phyllis J. Washington Education Center – the epicenter of UM's education and human sciences programs.

Three stories tall, the addition will connect to the west end of the building and provide 35,000 square feet of instructional and collaborative space. Included in the new wing are a 500-seat auditorium, the largest on campus; clinical labs for the counselor education program; new spaces for the Montana Digital Academy; and two additional Learning and Belonging Preschool classrooms with observation rooms, seminar spaces, an outdoor play yard and a unique inspiration lab.

"We could not be more proud to have Dennis and Phyllis Washington as our allies in building an exceptional college for education and human sciences," said UM President Sheila Stearns. "They epitomize the Montana ethic of working hard, earning success and giving back to build a stronger Montana."

Preliminary preparations for construction began in late August. The project is expected to be completed by Dec. 31, 2018.

The addition is solely funded through philanthropic giving, and several generous donors have joined the Washington Foundation to support the project. Last year, the Alice Lee Lund Charitable Trust made a \$5

million gift toward the auditorium, and significant contributions have also come from Montanans Betsy and Warren Wilcox and Maureen and Dan Rovig. (Betsy and Maureen are both graduates of UM's education program).

"Since the beginning of our foundation, both Dennis and I have been committed to helping youth realize their dream of accessing high quality education through scholarships," said Phyllis Washington, chairperson of the Washington Foundation. "As a former elementary education teacher myself, I realize that investing in 21st-century technology and facilities and in transformative teacher development programs will impact students for generations to come."

"Dennis and I are honored to play a key role in supporting education programs, from early childhood to creating this new, state-of-the-art teaching and learning environment right here in our hometown of Missoula."

The Washington Foundation helped fund the first addition to the education center, which was completed in 2009 and named in honor of Phyllis Washington. Since then, the college has only grown – both in number of students and in academic excellence.

The college showed across-the-board enrollment growth from academic year 2015 to 2016, and is on track to continue that upward trend. The growth demonstrates that the college is meeting demand for qualified teachers, distance-learning options and mental health professionals across Montana. Donor investment in the college's new facility will help propel these already successful programs.

"We are poised to become a national leader in education, human sciences and other helping professions," said Roberta Evans, dean of the college. "With the support and guidance of these generous and passionate friends of our college, our programs will continue to grow and support high-needs fields through the development of qualified professionals."



More information about the programs enhanced by the new addition is online at coe.h.s.umt.edu. To invest in this project, please contact Twedt Hailes, senior director of development, at 406.243.4568 or twedt.hailes@mso.umt.edu.



Maryfrances Shreeve and her son, William Shreeve.

A Lasting Tribute: Gift Creates Two UM Academic Chairs

Dean Roberta Evans calls the support transformative, noting that those who educate teachers and principals decisively impact generations of children, adolescents and education professionals.

The chairs will provide leadership in the Department of Teaching and Learning and the Department of Educational Leadership, expanding UM's impact as an international leader in educational theory, research and practice.

The chairs are named in honor of Maryfrances Shreeve '57, M.Ed. '63, a much-loved master teacher who served the children and the state of Montana for 37 years, and her son, Bill '54, M.Ed. '58, a professor of education at Eastern Washington University.

The daughter of Montana pioneers, Maryfrances grew up on a ranch near Gold Creek. She started working as a teacher in Snowshoe, near Avon, and spent her career with students throughout Western Montana before retiring in 1972. Hundreds of pupils became strong, capable and confident individuals under her caring tutelage.

Her only break from the profession came during the 1930s, when employment was minimally available for

women whose husbands were already employed. She continued to teach even while earning both bachelor's and master's degrees at UM in the 1950s and early '60s.

William C. Shreeve followed in his mother's footsteps to become an exceptional educator. He received both his B.A. and M.Ed. from UM, where he met his wife, Joanne. He started his professional life in Johnston, Colorado. There he was a respected and successful high school teacher, coach and principal who coached the high school basketball team to win the Colorado state championship in 1958.

After earning an Ed.D. at the University of Northern Colorado, he joined Eastern Washington University in 1967 as a professor of education. He was dedicated to training quality principals and school administration professionals for K-12 school systems, instituting many award-winning programs during his tenure. Recognized for his leadership and vision, he served as the chair of the Department of Education from 1972 until his retirement in 1996.

The inaugural chair holders will be named later this academic year.

This summer, academic chairs honoring two exceptional regional educators were established at the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. The Maryfrances Shreeve Chair in Teaching Excellence and the William C. Shreeve Chair in Educational Administration honor two exceptional regional educators.

These privately funded faculty positions are among the University's highest honors, and are the college's first named chairs.

Dear Friends,



New years are about new beginnings, and this year will bring many opportunities to the University of Montana campus. President Seth Bodnar takes the reins in January. Seth has a deep passion for leading people and an appreciation of Montana that will serve the University well. I know you will join me in offering him and his family a warm Griz welcome.

One thing never changes, and that is our gratitude to you, our loyal supporters. From our UM family to yours, thank you for making this year one for the record books. Thank you for your continued belief in the transformative power of higher education – to change students' lives, to produce groundbreaking research and to boost our state's economic wellbeing.

May your holidays be bright, and the new year bring great things.

Sincerely,

Cindy Williams

Cindy Williams
President and CEO
University of Montana Foundation



Seth Bodnar and wife Chelsea Elander

UM Announces 18th President

After a nationwide search, Seth Bodnar accepted the Montana University System's offer to be UM's next president.

Bodnar comes to UM from Chicago, where he was a senior executive with General Electric. His varied background includes service in the 101st Airborne Division and the US Army's First Special Forces Group, two years as an assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences at West Point and a distinguished career at GE. His wife, Chelsea Elander, is a fifth-generation Montanan, a native of Missoula and an MSU graduate.

"As a flagship research and liberal arts institution, the University of Montana is extremely well-positioned to provide exactly the type of integrative education model that students need to be successful, educated and engaged citizens throughout their lifetimes," Bodnar said. "I am incredibly excited to work with the faculty and the entire campus community in reinvigorating and reasserting this model."

Stay tuned for opportunities for alumni and friends to meet our new president this spring!



Dennis and Gretchen Eck celebrate the new entrance to Eck Hall, which opens onto the Oval.

Introducing Dennis and Gretchen Eck Hall

At Homecoming, we celebrated two very special Montanans: Dennis and Gretchen Eck. In August, the Ecks committed \$2.2 million to support renovations to the Liberal Arts Building. The couple had already made several generous gifts over the past three years, bringing their total contributions to the project to \$8.3 million.

In recognition of their generosity, the University named the southern wing of the building Dennis and Gretchen Eck Academic Hall.

The Ecks' gifts have made a huge impact on UM students and faculty. Their support has allowed the College of Humanities and Sciences to overhaul classrooms, install advanced technology, renovate the auditorium, create a new entrance off the Oval and make much-needed infrastructure upgrades. The many students who learn in these spaces will benefit for years to come.

The Ecks have contributed \$8.3 million to support renovations to the Liberal Arts Building.

"This modernization of the Liberal Arts Building, without tearing the building down, serves as a proof of concept for upgrading the University's facilities without changing the campus's characteristic beauty," said Dennis. "Gretchen and I are proud to have our name associated with a project that will impact students every day and hope to inspire other donors and the State to support higher education."



Celebrate 125!

This February, the University of Montana celebrates its 125th birthday.

Join us for Celebrate 125 activities February 11-17, 2018. Visit www.umt.edu/125 to learn more.

Feist Family Foundation Makes \$2 Million Gift to Grizzly Athletics

The Missoula-based Feist Family Foundation has committed \$2 million to the University of Montana athletic department. The gift benefits athletic facility improvements, student-athletes, men's basketball and the Grizzly Athletics Hall of Champions. In honor of the foundation's generosity, the Hall of Champions, located along the south concourse of the Adams Center, will be renamed the Feist Family Foundation Grizzly Athletics Hall of Champions.

UM's rich athletic history is almost as old as the University itself. The foundation's generous support will ensure that fans can continue to celebrate that tradition. A portion of the gift will support ongoing maintenance and improvements to the Feist Family Foundation Grizzly Athletics Hall of Champions.

"The Feist family and Sheehan Majestic have been such great supporters of UM and Grizzly Athletics," said Kent Haslam, athletics director. "This gift is a testament to their commitment to our student-athletes and to this community."

Originally built in 2003 after the renovation to the Adams Center, the Feist Family Foundation Grizzly Athletics Hall of Champions features dozens of glass display cases that house some of the department's proudest moments and achievements, including conference- and national-championship trophies, recognition of past Grizzly greats and other memorabilia. The hall attracts thousands of visitors on Griz game day and is a popular destination for people visiting campus.

The beautiful display brings fans together and rekindles wonderful memories, but takes funding

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Montana's proud history is what makes it so special to be part of Grizzly Athletics.

– Feist Family Foundation

to update, including cleaning the glass displays and changing out photos and memorabilia to ensure it is a dynamic history of the University's programs. The athletics department has in the past pieced money together to pay for the upkeep, but the endowment from the Feist Family Foundation will provide consistent funding, without having to pull from other areas.

"The funding will provide critical support to one of the most high-profile spaces on campus," said Haslam. "There is a constant need to keep the displays maintained and current. This gift will allow for that, along with supporting many other priorities within the athletics department."

The generosity of the Feist family, which operates local full-service distributor Sheehan Majestic, is nothing new to the University. The family also donated \$1 million to the athletics department in 2008.

"Montana's proud history is what makes it so special to be part of Grizzly Athletics," said a representative of the Feist Family Foundation. "We're excited to assist in showcasing the department's many accomplishments over the years."



Go Griz! Washington-Grizzly Champions Center Ready for Student-Athletes

The privately funded Washington-Grizzly Champions Center opened in time for the fall football season. The 51,000-square-foot facility features:

- 19,400-square-foot, two-level, all-sport weight room with a nutrition/refueling station
- 7,100-square-foot football locker room with 112 lockers
- Locker room for coaches and professional athletes
- 2,000-square-foot football team room
- 5 meeting rooms for all student-athletes
- Additional restrooms and concession stands along the southwest concourse

This \$14 million project couldn't have happened without the hundreds of donors who made contributions, including the lead donors, Kevin and Kyle Washington on behalf of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation.



Left: UM celebrated the grand opening of the Washington-Grizzly Champions Center at Homecoming. Right: The Washington family on the field.

A special thank you to our major donors for their support in the development of the center.

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Kevin and Kyle Washington on behalf of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation
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Jim & Linda Wier
Rich & Susan Zins

Philanthropy in Action: Fostering Student Success at the Davidson Honors College

Last October, UM alumni Ian and Nancy Davidson set out to revolutionize honors education at UM.

The couple, who has supported the honors college since its inception in the early 1990s, directed their generous \$1.5 million gift to create two innovative initiatives: the Teaching, Research and Mentoring Fellows Program, and the Honors Career Development Program.

Both provide distinctive experiences just for honors students – opportunities that will help them grow intellectually and personally, and set the stage for future success.

The TRM Fellows Program brings recent doctoral graduates to campus to teach honors courses and engage students in their research. The first two fellows arrived in Missoula this summer.

Kentucky native Eliot Graham started his career as a middle and high school science teacher and that experience, he says, is what inspired him to study the theory of education.

“The experiences and problems I observed are what made me want to do research and understand things more deeply.”

Graham is teaching the course Race, Inequality and Education, and is also helping the student diversity coalition coordinate an initiative this spring.

“Mentoring is something that drew me to this position,” he says.



Eliot Graham talks with a student.

Californian Rachel Gross recently completed her doctorate at University of Wisconsin – Madison, focusing on the history of outdoor clothing and gear. As you might imagine, Montana is a fantastic place to continue this research.

“One of the cool things about me landing here is the connection between my academic work and the interests of people who are here,” she says.

Gross will be working with honors students on a new project to explore local outdoor recreation history, bringing a regional focus to her larger study. Students will interview Western Montanans and collect artifacts,

which will be developed into an exhibit at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

Elsewhere at the honors college, a new staff member, Kaetlyn Cordingley, is launching the Honors Career Development Program from scratch.

She has already built out some preliminary programming, which will engage both students and regional businesses. She says her goal over the next year is to be a knowledge center.

“I want to make students aware of this new service that’s available, and help them connect to resources that already exist on campus.”

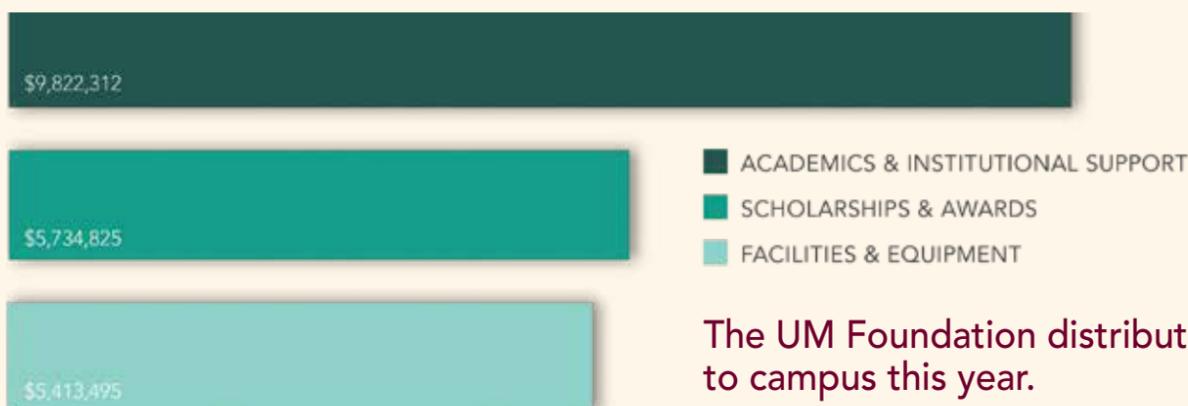
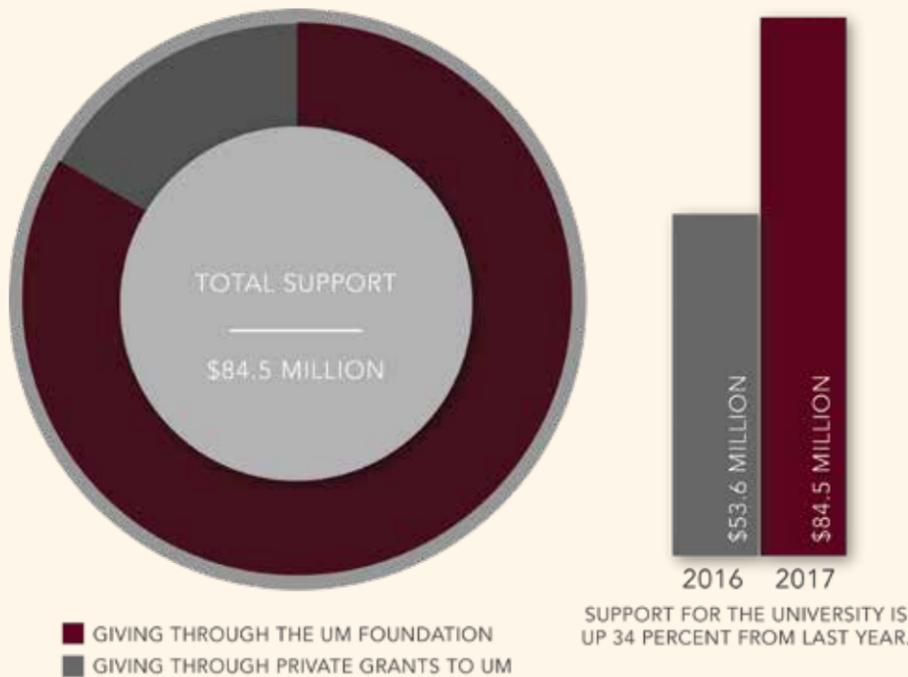
When fully implemented, the Honors Career Development Program will provide students with four years of guidance, support and preparation for post-collegiate life.

“Though I’m working with an initial cohort of 20 students to pilot program offerings, I can meet with any student in the college,” she says. “We’ll determine all of the pieces that come together to help set them in the direction of success.”

To find out how you can innovate alongside the Davidsons, contact Chelsea Spreeman at chelsea.spreeman@mso.umt.edu, or 406.243.2567. The DHC is seeking funding for four more fellows, as well as operating budget and internship stipend support for honors students in the Career Development Program.

Donors Support UM in RECORD-BREAKING NUMBERS

Donors stepped up to support the University of Montana in a big way this year. In fiscal year 2017, **14,464 DONORS GAVE \$84.5 MILLION** in private support. The University’s largest-ever gift, from Bill and Carolyn Franke and their family, helped propel this record-breaking fundraising year. Thank you to all of our generous alumni and friends!





Professor of 40 Years Leaves Legacy of Respect and Generosity

When Richard Field came to UM in the 1970s to teach chemistry, he brought with him a philosophy of respect for his students. It's one that stayed with him throughout his 40+ years as a UM professor.

"The students have to feel that you respect them," he says. "They have to feel that you are working as hard as they are. If you do that, I think you establish a personal relationship with them."

Field does this every way he can. For instance, he posts test grades within six hours of the exam, regardless of whether the class held 20 students or 200.

"That's the kind of thing that makes students feel you're putting in hard work, too," he says.

During his whole career at UM, there has been a culture of giving back to help students. He has been more than happy to join in.

"The department has quite a history of giving," he says. "Almost all of my faculty members, especially the retirees, have given some money to the department."

A dedicated donor for years, Field recently decided to leave an estate gift to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

His gift establishes a scholarship award and travel grant for an undergraduate chemistry student, with preference given to seniors going to conferences.

"Students, particularly in Montana, need to get out and present work at meetings like that," he says.

To Field, the idea of giving back is second nature.

"Most of us faculty, and the staff, too, have devoted our lives to this institution," he points out. "It seems reasonable to support something that has been that important to you."

Make Your Year-End Gift Today

Reap tax benefits and support learning and research at UM by making a gift before December 31. Visit SupportUM.org/RMT to make a gift online, or give us a call at 800.443.2593, and we would be happy to help you make a gift over the phone. Thank you for supporting UM!

Charitable contributions to the the University of Montana can be directed to:

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Phone: 406.243.2593
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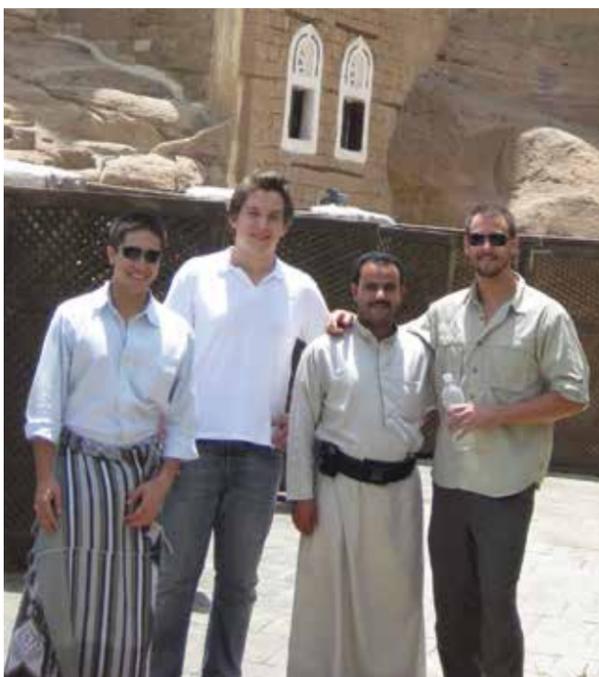
- You must be 70½ or older at the time of distribution.
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- Your IRA administrator must make the distribution directly to the charity, or you may write a check payable to the charity from your IRA checkbook.

Contact Alison Schultz at 406.243.5121 or alison.schultz@mso.umt.edu



The University of Montana Foundation Office of Gift Planning provides information about the benefits of planned gifts and does not provide any legal, financial or tax advice. We encourage you to talk with your advisors who are familiar with your specific situation to determine the benefits to you.

Honoring a Dream Deferred



Barstad (far right) visited the Dar al-Hajar, a royal palace in Yemen, while on a study abroad trip.

Travis Barstad and Dean Pratt met in middle school and quickly became close friends. On

long summer nights down the Bitterroot Valley, they lay on the roof of Travis' garage to watch the stars. They talked about their futures, their dreams of traveling the world and of serving in the military.

The two friends enlisted in the Marine Corp together in 2000, after high school graduation. They went to boot camp, then joined separate units. It was the last time they saw each other.

For six years, Travis served in the Marines. His time in the Middle East piqued his interest in the culture and language of the region. He was fascinated by the countries he visited and the people he met.

After his tour of duty overseas, Travis returned home and, in 2006, he enrolled at UM to study Arabic.

"My first semester, my Arabic professor, Samir Batar, really encouraged me to study overseas," he says.

With the help of Excellence Fund scholarships, he studied abroad in Egypt, Yemen and Morocco. What he learned in the classroom came alive as he interacted with the community and culture.

"If not for the University of Montana and my scholarships, I never would have had the opportunity to

live and study in the Middle East," Travis says. "Those scholarships helped me get where I am today."

He received his master's degree in nuclear non-proliferation and counterterrorism and launched a successful career with the State Department. He is currently posted on a year-long assignment in Islamabad, Pakistan, and will head to Jerusalem next year.

Meanwhile, Travis' friend Dean had also gone overseas with the Marines. With five weeks left on his second tour, he was making plans to return home for college. Then his unit was hit by a roadside bomb in Fallujah.

He never made it home.

Days later, Travis learned that his childhood friend had been killed in action in Iraq.

Since Dean's tragic passing, Travis has been determined to honor his friend's sacrifice. This year, he contacted his alma mater to create a scholarship in Dean's memory.

Next spring, a student will receive the Corporal Dean Pratt Memorial Scholarship in Arabic Studies to do what Dean never had a chance to: attend college.

"More than anything, I want to keep his name and his memory alive," Travis says.

Grizzlies Going Places



Name: Bailey Durnell
Hometown: Great Falls, Montana
Year: Junior
Major: Political Science
Scholarship: Briscoe-Gray Memorial Scholarship

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Why did you choose UM?

My parents love UM. I grew up watching Grizzly football every Saturday. This campus and community have provided me with more support, opportunities and experiences than I would have ever found at another school.

Why did you decide to pursue political science?

Political science explains how the world works. I love how abstract it is, the way it allows you to think about concepts. My favorite class has been American Political Thought with Ramona Grey. It explores parallels between different political movements.

How has your UM education changed you so far?

I don't even remember who I was before I came to UM. I've developed intellectually and had opportunities to pursue different activities. My involvement with things like ASUM, the Montana Model United Nations and my sorority, Delta Gamma, has created the space for me to have meaningful conversations and to become a better communicator.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm exposed to something new that changes my mind every week, it seems. Maybe law school, maybe a master's in political science.

Why is being a scholarship recipient meaningful to you?

It's really incredible. It subsidizes a lot of what I was taking out in loans. I'm working one job now, not two. I have a lot more time for school.

How do you plan to give back yourself?

I think it's always going to be important for me to instill values of appreciation for higher education. Hopefully I have the means and resources to do that one day.



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Fellowship Kick-Starts Careers

Since Asia Caluori came to UM, she's been busy. Caluori is a management information systems major at the School of Business Administration. She has served as a peer advisor, department assistant, Mansfield Center intern, member of the MIS Association, and has traveled to serve on different project trips.

During the spring 2017 semester, Caluori was awarded the Deborah McWhinney Emerging Leaders Fellowship Award. She used the award to help cover

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If my legacy is that I help launch the next generation of business leaders, I am very satisfied.

—Deborah McWhinney

expenses for her internship in San Francisco with financial services firm KPMG this summer. The new fellowship, which is for high-achieving business students, was given to two students this spring.

“I established the fellowship award to help outstanding students get a kick-start in their careers,” says Deborah McWhinney, the funder of the award. “Asia is a clear standout at the University of Montana.”

McWhinney, a former UM Foundation trustee and volunteer, funds a number of scholarships. She sees giving back as a way to help the world of tomorrow.

“If my legacy is that I help launch the next generation of business leaders, I am very satisfied,” she says.

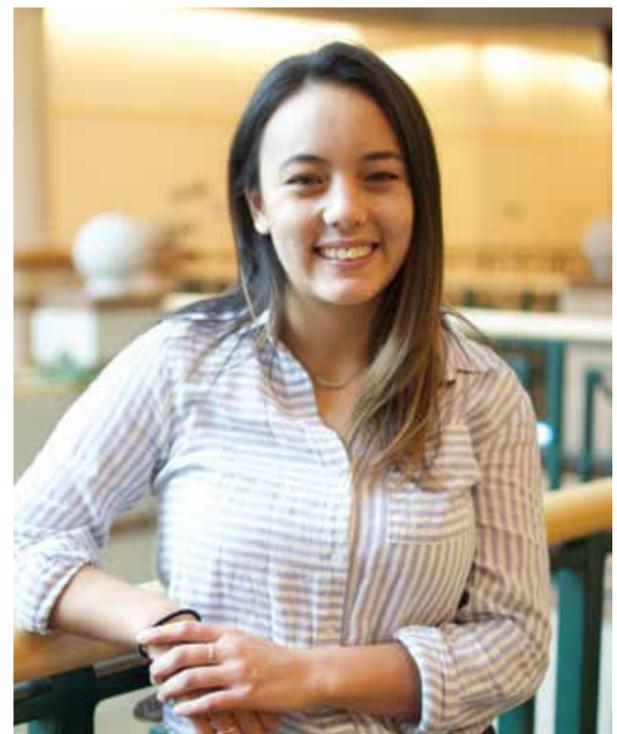
For Caluori, the award meant financial security as she pursued her internship in San Francisco.

“I pay for my own school, so usually I spend my summer working a couple jobs, and all of that goes towards tuition,” she says. “My internship does pay, but living in San Francisco sucks every penny of that. With this award, it helped take care of tuition this year.”

At KPMG, Caluori worked with financial departments of companies in the area. She helped solve IT problems through data research.

“You talk to someone like the founder of the award, Deborah McWhinney, and it makes you want to conquer the world,” she says.

To learn how Debby has provided for this fellowship in perpetuity through her estate, visit SupportUM.org/impactreport/2017.



Asia Caluori