

BAND ECHOES

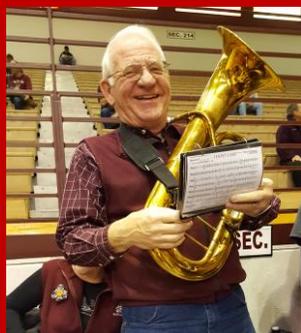
University of Montana ALUMNI BAND

July 2017

2017 HOMECOMING THEME "REFLECTIONS"

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Welcome to Our UM Alumni Band "REFLECTIONS"

re-flec-tion : a.) something that shows the effect or character of something else
b.) an effect produced by an influence "Merriam-Webster"

It is with special memories that I personally look back and REFLECT on my time as a student here at UM!! My time had incredible highs and lows, just as I'm sure many of you had!! I came as a wide-eyed dreamer of being a "Smokey the Bear" forest ranger type and majoring in Forestry! However, I didn't really like all the math, botany, chemistry, etc. that was the heart of that curriculum, and right from the first week on campus I was loving band, brass ensemble, and private lessons; so after two years I finally changed my major to music education!!

Yes, I fell more in love with my wonderful girlfriend, now wife of 49 years, so we got married her sophomore, my junior year and lived in the married student housing! Together we studied very hard, worked way too many hours in order to pay bills & eat, and learned an incredible amount about life!! We had our oldest son, bought our first "new" car, and Betty still graduated right on time in Elementary Education!!

The UM Music courses and faculty had an incredible effect on me!! It opened a whole new world from where I grew up in the old mining town of Butte!! It was incredible, sometimes good, other times painful, but it gave me wonderful lessons in Music Education and perseverance!! Our instructors were caring, made us work hard, and wanted us to succeed!! I have fond memories of Band tours around the state, and of course the most amazing tour to Chicago and our week in upstate New York before playing in Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, MI for the 'College Band Directors National Association' (CBDNA) 25th National Convention!!

I continue to cherish the friendship of the many talented students that worked through studies and ensembles together with me!! UM gave me the tools and knowledge I needed to have two wonderful careers and a love for music to enjoy the rest of my life!!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! It's time to stop and REFLECT on the many good times you had and good things you gained from your days at UM!! Then plan to come and share those memories and create some new ones as we gather for our 29th annual Alumni Band Homecoming weekend! By all means try to be here Friday as well, because our Concert Band reading session has become a favorite of all that participate!! And our Friday evening Banquet and Jazz Band continue to be a highlight of the weekend! Remember that our new BBQ/Tailgate Party is for the entire family!!

Of special note! Thanks to your two types of extra donations this year, we were able to reach out with our 1st ever GRIZ BAND CAMP "ice cream social" with over 15 Alumni Band folks helping dish out!! **And** as you read the exciting news from Dr. Griggs in this Newsletter you will see that our several thousand dollars over the last few years joined with other resources to purchase an awesome new GRIZ DRUMLINE for the marching band!! Please continue to help us provide these and other special opportunities by giving generously, even if you can't be here in person!!

We're already excited to see you October 13th & 14th!! You will find the registration form in this newsletter, so run off a copy to COMPLETE and send it in while it's on your mind!!

Sincerely,
Carl Smart, 2017 Committee Chair
UM Alumni Band Committee

SPECIAL REPORT

AN INTERVIEW WITH GARY GILLETT



On a beautiful spring evening, Peter and Ellen McKenzie sat down with Gary Gillett on their deck with beverages in hand to catch up on his retirement.

P&E: How's retirement going?

GG: It oughta be illegal. The only downside is that I have to work at not feeling guilty about doing things for myself so much of the time. It's hard. And guilt is quite possibly the worst emotion. I proactively head it off. Retirement - it's absolutely wonderful.

P&E: How long did you teach?

GG: 41 years. I thought 40 would be a good goal, but I wasn't financially ready. I also found a great financial planner - it was important to see the math. Once I knew I could afford it, I took the leap. The first 4 years were in Elko County, Nevada at a reservation school. Then I moved with my buddy to Montana. I taught 2 years in Corvallis, 6 in Stevensville, and the rest at MCPS - Big Sky and Sentinel

P&E: How long were you involved with UM Alumni band?

GG: I never played in the UM Grizzly marching band. They needed horns for players, so they suckered me into it. I would help Hal with the dance band and eventually took it over.

P&E: What has been your favorite experience in your time with the alumni band?

GG: The times I had with Hal. He's such a fun old fart. Always had a smile on his face. Always intended to do good things. Never heard him say a grumpy thing - so positive and happy. I especially loved being second-in-command to Hal - loved not being in charge - loved helping him and making his life easier.

P&E: What would alumni be surprised to learn about you?

GG: My family is the strangest thing. My mother was an identical twin, and my father was an identical twin. The female twins married the male twins. My father and his twin were stationed in Africa, and a mutual friend suggested to the mother twins to write to them. They each wrote to one of the male twins, effectively creating two couples. When they eventually met, they traded siblings - it was a better personality match. They married. They got out of the war and built a duplex so they lived next door. In the middle - a sliding wall, so their homes could be connected. It seemed like a big group home with 4 parents and 4 children. Everything we did was built in twins. The fathers worked the same job. The women wore the same outfits. The men I call brothers are actually cousins. That was the life my parents wanted - they knew nothing but the twin life.

P&E: What would you tell alumni who haven't participated in alumni band? Why should they attend homecoming?

GG: I took last year off, because it was my first year of retirement. I didn't involve myself at all. I am thinking about coming back and joining the tuba line with Schuberg. Everyone should come join the tuba line!

P&E: When you're not conducting or playing trombone, what do you do?

GG: (*holds up beer*) I'm writing the history of the Missoula City Band. I've been writing grants to fund it. It will probably be ready in summer of 2018. I've been researching forever, and it's hard to stop because it's so interesting. I have a ton of information and pictures. I thought writing would be easier - I always thought I could write. I had a professor in freshmen English in college who told me that I could write, and I somehow believed her. The researching is easy, but the writing is hard. My research goes back to 1865.

P&E: What's your favorite thing about summer in Montana?

GG: It's prep for retirement (for teachers). In summer, we'd go to Big Arm (Fred Nelson, Rich Erickson, John Combs, and more) and we'd talk shop. My favorite thing about Missoula summer is *city* Band! Also, twilight in the valley. If I can be on a deck with a beer at that time...

*language has been altered to keep "Family Friendly"

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA CONCERT BAND NEWS

Dear Faithful Griz Band Alumni,

We have had another terrific year with the UM Concert Bands. In the fall semester the Symphonic Wind Ensemble prepared and performed classic and contemporary music for three different concerts throughout the semester including some familiar works like *William Byrd Suite* – Gordon Jacob and *Fantasia in GM* – J.S. Bach, and brand new works like *Rumpelstilzchen* – Jess Langston Turner and *Scherzo a la Britten* – John Leiszczynski.

In November, the UM Bands hosted 160 students from 58 high schools in ID, MT, WA, and WY for the 4th Annual UM High School All-Stars Festival. During the event we welcomed back Griz alum, former Marching Band Assistant Director, and current music educator at Mercer Island High School, Mr. Parker Bixby to be guest conductor of one of the two bands. Guest composer, Ms. Alex Shapiro captivated everyone with her unique works that artfully combine recorded and acoustic sounds. Each of Ms. Shapiro's works also featured accompanying video created by UM Media Arts students projected on a 40' screen behind the band.

When most students are still on Christmas holiday, the students of the SWE returned to Missoula for a quick rehearsal and a three-day tour around our great (and BIG) state. In this short time we logged 1,000 miles on the bus and performed for nine different high schools in Bozeman, Billings, Laurel, Helena and Kalispell.

Spring presented us with a unique and exciting opportunity. I was granted a sabbatical for the semester to conduct, teach, and adjudicate in Michigan, Oregon, Washington, Manitoba, Ontario and China so I turned the reins of the Symphonic Winds over to a very familiar face, Dr. Tom Cook. Dr. Cook has done a magnificent job leading the students through three performances, one featuring the famous trumpeter and Montana native, Allen Vizzutti and another featuring renowned composer and Missoula resident, David Maslanka. I can't thank Dr. Cook enough for sharing his artistry and humanity with our students.

Your generous donations continue to enrich the UM Bands in meaningful ways. After saving money for a few years we were able to combine your gifts with other funds to replace the aging instruments of the UM Drumline. Our next goal is to buy a contrabass clarinet so that we can return the one we have been borrowing from Big Sky High School for the past seven years.

Interesting factoid

Members of the 2016-2017 SWE hail from AK, AL, CA, ID, MN, NM, OH, PA, WA, Hong Kong and 17 MT high schools!

We hope to see you this Fall at the 2017 Homecoming!

Dr. James Smart
Director of Bands, Director of UM Symphony Ensemble; Trumpet



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA JAZZ PROGRAM NEWS

What an incredible year the UM Jazz Program had all over the Northwest with tours, music outreach, musical premiers, numerous guest artists and clinicians on campus. We are excited about many more incredible experiences scheduled for 2017-18!

JAZZ EVENTS

This past year was very exciting as we the Jazz Ensemble I performed at the MMEA Northwest Educators Conference in February with a Tribute to David Bowie, Michael Jackson and Prince performing four (4) brand new works premiered by our own faculty, current students and alums. Johan Eriksson (saxophone faculty) Sam McKenzie (current student AND graduate), Owen Ross (B.A. in Jazz 2016) and Elijah Wynn (B.A. in Jazz 2017) penned some incredible music paying musical tribute to these icons.

The 2nd season of the UM Jazz Artist Series kicked off with a tremendous visit from legendary woodwind artist Victor Goines (quartet) in September and then the phenomenal Greg Gisbert (Jazz at Lincoln Center/Maria Schneider, etc.) and his quartet in February. Both groups each spent two days interacting and working with our students - passing along some fantastic tidbits of knowledge and experience.

Our very first “When Jazz Was King” event in November with host and Master of Ceremonies Huey Lewis was attended by a receptive crowd of over 200 people. It was truly a night to remember. Huey wowed the audience with his jazz singing and his knowledge along with fun historical facts about some of the jazz greats including Louie Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Ella Fitzgerald. One memorable highlight included having all of four of the jazz bands participating in a second line tune surrounding the very animated crowd.

This past December the Montana Winery hosted the 5th Annual Holiday Swing performance with special guest alum Gary Herbig (sax). The evening was a great success with the help of the UM Zootown Cabaret under the direction of David Cody.

The community welcomed back trumpet virtuoso Allen Vizzutti in February and the university and community honored Lance Boyd through the UM CVPA Odyssey of the Stars event in March. A trombone choir of 28 members performed along with David Morgenroth and Clipper Anderson.

Once again we had four of the UM Small Groups perform at Jazzoula in April. All of the groups received very positive feedback from local musicians and community members as we are grateful for this wonderful experience.

Other events this past year included having the UM Jazz Ensemble perform along with the Symphonic Wind Ensemble on tour in January traversing the state with performances in Bozeman (w/Bozeman HS & Belgrade HS), Billings (at Senior HS & West HS), Laurel (at Laurel HS), Helena (Capital HS & Helena HS) and Kalispell (with Glacier HS & Flathead HS). The ensemble also performed at the Sunburst Art Series (May) and at the UM Concert Band Festival.

One aspect of the program we are working to enhance is to give each group their own identity with our “Swinging into the Holidays” concert featuring the Jazz Band II, Lab Jazz Band III and the Jazz Workshop IV. We also held our new “Swinging into Spring” concert in April with the UM Lab Jazz Band III, Jazz Workshop IV and special guest the Ronan Middle School Jazz Band under the direction of Alicia Lipscomb.

We held our 5th Annual Jazz Arranging concert in April with six (6) pieces arranged by our students and music by guest composer/guitarist Mike Dana along with the Big Sky High School Jazz Band under the direction of Jesse Dochnahl.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Next year we have two Teaching Assistants helping out with some of the jazz offerings including saxophonist Loren Stillman and welcoming back Sam McKenzie (percussion) to help with the Jazz and Percussion areas.

2017-2018 PERFORMANCES

The UM Jazz Artist Series opens the 3rd Season with the Cyrus Chestnut Quartet on September 20th. Don't Miss it!

Join us on for our “*Artistry in Rhythm – Tribute to Stan Kenton*” on October 25th with trombonist/composer/arranger/publisher and Stan Kenton alum, Robert Curnow. Bob will offer some incredible musical and historical insight into this jazz legend and his music.

The 6th Annual Holiday Swing will be held on December 16th, 2017 once again at the Montana Winery with a very special guest!

We will hold a very special Jazz Artist Series 'Jazz for Lovers' performance on Wednesday, February 14^t, 2018. This evening will include a wonderful Dinner & Show package. More on that soon!

UM/BUDDY DeFRANCO JAZZ FESTIVAL

This past year saw the 2017 edition of our festival as an incredible success with 43 groups participating along with some of the finest educators and jazz musicians in the business. We closed out the festivities with an exciting Jam Session at Plonk on Friday evening with the artists sharing the performing stage with our students and faculty.

We hope you will be a part of the continuing tradition of combining jazz performance and education this year on March 15th & 16th, 2018. We are shooting for a record 60 groups to participate with groups coming from as far away as Seattle! Our Featured guest artists will be once again some of the best performers, educators and people in the business including Erik Applegate (bass), Allison Miller (dr), Reggie Thomas (piano), Steve Owen (sax), Tanya Darby (tpt) and much more!

If you haven't been to the festival, Jazz Artist Series or one of our many jazz performances, this will surely be a great year to visit campus for a jazz performance!

Have a great rest of the summer. It will be fantastic to see you all at Homecoming and hopefully no grill fires this time!

Looking forward,
Rob Tapper
Director of Jazz; Trombone

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA MARCHING BAND NEWS

Hello UM Band Alumni!

I hope your year has been a productive one and that you are looking forward to Homecoming this fall. I had an interesting experience this spring while visiting my daughter and her new baby down in College Station, Texas. While I was there, I got the chance to attend the Texas A & M Muster which takes place each year on April 21. This is a long-standing tradition that brings together current students and alumni from around the world. It was inspiring to see the pride, respect and tradition exhibited through this incredible event. I am glad that we are in the process of building our own traditions here at the University of Montana and with the UM Alumni Band. It really gives everyone a sense of belonging and ownership at UM and in the band program. Thank you to everyone for your enthusiasm and involvement.

Our biggest new development this year is the purchase of a brand new set of drumline instruments. We were able to use funds donated by the UM Alumni Band as well as money from Athletics, the Grizzly Scholarship Association and private donations from several Alumni Band members. We chose to purchase a set of Yamaha drums in a cherry wood finish with chrome hardware as seen in the photo. The drums are in production right now and will be delivered this summer. Our current set of drums will be available for Alumni Band percussionists to use this fall. This will be a huge upgrade from some of the older equipment we have been using for years. The next step will be to replace our brass and woodwinds with matching, silver instruments. That's a project for another day but I'm working on it.



We are looking forward to the 2017 season and hope that many of you will join us at Homecoming on October 14th. As usual, we are planning on the UM Alumni Band being one of the most popular entries in the Homecoming Parade and as our guests in the halftime show. Your participation is always welcome and we hope to see you here.

I look forward to the plans for Alumni Band members to interact with the UM students more as part of our marching band camp and the Homecoming events. I would like to thank the Alumni Band board for all their hard work and each of you for your support of the Grizzly Marching Band! GO GRIZ!!

Dr. Kevin Griggs
Associate Director of Bands, Director of Athletic Bands



I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream!

How many gallons of ice cream does it take to fill up The UM Grizzly Marching Band? Be sure and include every kind of topping you can think of in your calculations.

During UM Band Camp last summer your UM Alumni Band members came from as far as Big Fork (thanks Armstrongs!) to help dish out many many bowls of ice cream to your GRIZ Marching Band. As we came up to the music building to set up tables and get ready we heard the amazing results of several days of rehearsal. The band's crisp bold sound was bouncing off the walls of various buildings around campus. They sounded Terrific!!! It was so fun to watch the reaction of folks walking around campus. Everyone was smiling and many were dancing along with the music. Why wouldn't you?



With the tables set up and the toppings laid out in all their glory we prepared our wrists with some warm-ups for a bunch of quick scooping. Many hands made light labor.

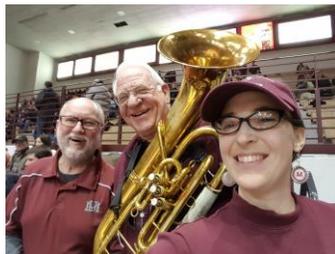
Carl Smart thanked the band for their efforts over the last few days and let them know that their UM Alumni Band loved em'. After days of rehearsal and hours of standing and marching YOU rewarded OUR band with all the ice cream they could eat! Did they rush the tables? Did they swarm the alumni like a bunch of bees on honey? Did chaos and calamity rule? Hardly. I must tell you that each and every one of our beloved GRIZ band members politely thanked us for our contribution to their positive band experience as they lined up at the serving tables.

We scooped and carved out bowl after bowl of the frozen treat and they COVERED their ice cream with all the tantalizing toppings they wanted. It was so fun visiting with them. It was so fun watching them interact with each other. It was a great way to finish up the day and band camp.

Thanks Alumni for your donations. This is just one way we like to connect with our future. Come join us this summer if you have the time and the inclination. We can offer you some ice cream, toppings and a little hope for the future. What a wonderful group of musicians! We're so proud of them all.

The total gallons consumed? Eight.

John Combs
UM Alumni Band Committee



Alumni Pep Band

Ever wonder how you can cheer on the Griz in the off season? Want to work on keeping the chops conditioned? Or would you just like to come and play some fun stand tunes and hang with the UM Pep Band? For the last two years members of the UM Alumni Band have been invited to come and play at a couple of Griz and Lady Griz Basketball games while the students are off for Winter Break. Our addition boosts the sound and support for the teams and is greatly appreciated by the fans, fellow alumni, and administration. It is a bunch of FUN and I encourage all of you who play a pep band instrument to join us! Look for dates and information in our holiday email or postcard mailings.

Our First Place UM Alumni Marching Band was full of energy and had an awesome sound with a total of 94 members marching down Higgins Avenue in the 2016 homecoming parade. Over 65 alumni attended the annual awards banquet along with 21 first timers! Returning Alumni shared stories, laughter, music, and connected with friends old and new. Because of your generous donations we were able to make a substantial donation to the University Bands and will continue to reach out to the graduating GRIZ band students and welcome them to join our Alumni band.



ALUMNI BAND FAMILY BBQ

For years alumni band members have been faced with a difficult decision after the homecoming parade: “Where do I want to eat and/or tailgate?” For the second year in a row, this year’s homecoming will make that decision a no-brainer. The return of the tailgate luncheon is coming this fall!

Once again my parents, Fred (class of '63) and Kathy (class of '62) will be hosting this gathering in their backyard at 525 Connell Avenue. For those of you not familiar with where that is, it is one block directly west of the music building. The street you turn on to go towards the music building is Connell. In fact, last year when the parade finished, the band marched directly to their backyard and got the party started.

This event will come with plenty of food, drinks and adult beverages. Everything will be provided prior to the start of the game and you won't have to worry about where to store your instrument. You can bring it with you as their backyard will have plenty of space. Tickets are only \$10 and alumni family members are more than welcome.

This event once again will replace the post-game BBQ that has been on campus catered by UM. With our event, it is off campus and catered by your illustrious alumni band committee. We hope to have as many people as possible and please encourage everyone to show up.

Brendan McGlynn
UM Alumni Band Committee



SPECIAL NOTICE

We want to be sure that ALL Alumni Band folks know that we want you to be here and to be included, no matter what your physical marching conditions or playing chops currently allow! SO PLEASE JOIN US by coming and taking in what you can or want to be a part of: Listen in on our Concert Band Reading session, the Jazzy Lunch rehearsal/concert, or the Marching Band Music rehearsal! Take in the heart of our reunion by being at the Friday Evening Alumni Band Banquet! On Saturday we have our very own Alumni Band Bus that is literally the “back rank of the band”, which picks up any who want to ride through the parade or any members that need to drop back and ride after marching part way through the parade! Then join us for the new Alumni Band family BBQ/Tailgate Party before going to the GRIZ Football game! The main thing is, we look forward to seeing each and every one of YOU, so please plan to be here for our 2017 Homecoming ALUMNI BAND Reunion!



UM ALUMNI BAND HIGHLIGHTS

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of the College of Visual and Performing Arts and the School of Music, I welcome you back to campus for 2017 Homecoming festivities and thank you for supporting your Alma Mater, the University of Montana.

Each year you build the excitement on campus and in our community when you march in the Homecoming parade. I always get a special thrill when I see and hear the Alumni Band march up University Avenue passing out lyrics to the fight song! We are very proud of your many accomplishments, and the outstanding impact you make on your communities as educators, entrepreneurs, and musicians. You are our legacy, and the continuing example of the kind of arts advocates and citizens we want to send out into the world. Thank you for your generous contributions to the Alumni Band Fund. Your contributions truly make a difference in the lives of our students.

The University of Montana actively pursues excellence in music and the arts. The College of Visual and Performing Arts and the School of Music are proud to display the talents of our student performers who are trained and mentored by outstanding faculty artists. We would also love to trumpet your accomplishments. Please let us know if you are receiving recognition for your work or life's achievements so that we can honor and spread the word to the UM community. Please contact College of Visual and Performing Arts Outreach and Information Director, Peggy Nesbitt at peggy.nesbitt@umontana@umontana.edu so we can join in celebrating you! Thank you again for your presence and support and Go Griz!

Sincerely,




Stephen Kalm, Dean
College of Visual and Performing Arts

JOIN UMAA

If you have not yet joined the UM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION you are encouraged to do so soon.

The UM Alumni Association does a great job of keeping all of us UM graduates informed of campus happenings, organizing special events, and being strong advocates for supporting all of our University Studies and Programs!

For more information on benefits and pricing go to:

<http://grizalum.org/>

Dear UM Alumni Band Members,

Welcome back to campus and to another exciting year for the UM School of Music. I hope to see many of you at Homecoming to personally thank you for your continued support of our School, its programs, and students who are the best and most talented young musicians in the state! This year, we will continue to offer exciting concerts, festivals and guest artists including All-State High School Band, Choir and Orchestra Festivals, our all-school Fusion concert, the UM Concert Band Festival, the Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival and the CVPA's Odyssey of the Stars Gala. The UM School of Music is strong and has endured the storm of UM's enrollment decline. The 2017 incoming music major class is a healthy population of about 60 students, mostly from Montana. They represent top All-State, All-Northwest high school students, and award-winning wind, brass, and percussion players. Many of these students are receiving scholarships from UM music alums like yourselves. The support we receive in the way of scholarship funds, the Alumni Band financial support during Homecoming to support the UM Band Program, and the support by way of the Alumni Band's enthusiasm is so important to the students, faculty, staff and Missoula community. We are all part of one big Griz Music Family spanning generations.

Go Griz, and see you at Homecoming 2017!

Maxine Ramey, Director-School of Music
The University of Montana

Mary Moe, who has twirled with us in the Homecoming Parade since 2008, resigned from the Montana Senate in January to leave Great Falls and head to Florida to help her daughter with her new triplets. She wrote about that decision and her experience in a recent Facebook post, which she agreed to let The Missoulian and now the UM BAND ECHOES publish. Please enjoy her “REFLECTIONS”



Somewhere over Kansas I stopped crying. The land leveled out and dried up and parceled itself out in the brown and green rectangles familiar to all who fly over and to America's farmlands. I settled down and drank in the peaceful emptiness below and reflected on the serene fullness of my heart.

For some reason, the first thing that came to mind was the comment of a fellow legislator back in January when I told him why I was resigning from my seat. "But, Mary, you've just established yourself here. Can't you just hire a nanny for your daughter?"

The comment shocked me at the time – not because it was promoting a more political or self-centered orientation, but because it missed the mark. Yes, I was leaving my Senate seat because my daughter needed me. But I was also leaving because I needed to. I didn't know how much I needed to at the time, but I do now.

I needed to get back on the horse that threw me. I've always felt bad about how harried I allowed myself to get with my newborn children. I just couldn't accept the sleeplessness and mindlessness and enjoy the experience, even though I recognized how beautiful, elemental, and ephemeral it was. I wanted to give myself the experience with these grandchildren that I was too worried and work-focused to savor 30 years ago. As I look back at my Facebook posts over the last 123 days, I think I got it right this time.

I needed to get back to basics. When I was teaching, I always had summers to take a step back, live in the moment with my family, read, write, and reflect. A time to get grounded. But when I entered higher education administration, there was no summer vacation. There was no vacation period. I got into the busy-doing-important-things mode and even when I retired, I didn't get out of it.

There is nothing like taking care of a baby to ground you. At 4 a.m. when it's only you and those shiny eyes staring up at you, you think about just about everything. And as I waited for one baby to go back to sleep and another one to stir, I wrote. I've always enjoyed writing, but this was different. I became interested in writing as a way to have a different kind of conversation, one that isn't mean or ugly, one that not only welcomes, but elevates all. I wanted to use writing as a way to reach out in the darkness, a way to find friendship and consolation and good will just by saying, Isn't it wonderful what we all share ... the kindness

and the cleverness, yes, but also the flaws and foibles that make us funny, familiar, approachable.

Mostly, though, I left Montana because I wanted to be part of the Trespino family story, right at the heart of it. To call it a miracle is clichéd, yet there it is: Everything about the story has been miraculous. Molly had had trouble getting pregnant, but she finally did. Until her second trimester, she was only supposed to have one baby, but in late September, they discovered three. That made it a high-risk pregnancy for her and for the babies, requiring her to be hospitalized at 26 weeks and deliver at 30 weeks. Yet her babies were all born relatively healthy, and all Molly lost was her voice. (Retching with morning sickness for months damaged her vocal chords.)

All three babies stayed in the neonatal intensive care unit at least 10 weeks; James stayed nearly 18. Total cost for Tampa General alone was in the neighborhood of \$2 million. Molly has a pre-existing condition that had disqualified her for affordable healthcare before "Obamacare." Miraculously, she got pregnant while the Affordable Care Act was in place or their financial situation would be hopeless now.

"Little" miracles happened. A doctor ordered an overfeeding of James at one point that had the baby vomiting so violently he had to be resuscitated. Molly and husband Derek were furious. However, whenever a baby has to be revived, the hospital does blood work as a precaution. This time they discovered an infection that, had James not been overfed, would not have been discovered until it was too late. He would have died within 72 hours.

Five days before they were to move out of the house they had sold and into the house they had bought, the new lending institution called and said they'd decided not to give them the loan after all. Yes, the bank had signed a document ensuring them a loan for more than that amount before they ever put their house up for sale and, yes, they probably had legal recourse, but that would take a lot longer than 5 days. We were all heartsick, distraught. But a couple of can-do ladies who had handled the original loan on their sold house decided, "We're not going to let this happen. This little family has gone through enough." And they got 'er done in the nick of time.

Of course, the real miracle is just the miracle all babies share ... those personalities, distinct and unique right from the start ... the

slow, almost imperceptible changes that ferry them from utter helplessness to minds and wills and bodies of their own. They talk to us now.

They grab our noses and delight in our feigned pain. They can hold their heads up. They are drooling and fussing from the teeth soon to emerge. They are coming into their own. I fully expect that one fine day one of them will echo the remark my sister made to a nun who had moved her from the back of the classroom to the front in second or third grade: "I know my rights." That's the Sheehy/MacHale/American spirit we like to see.

As the plane drew close to Great Falls last night, I looked down in the twilight at the land I love, unfurling like a flag from horizon to horizon, enlaced with that sturdy, forest-green ribbon of river. From the plane, you can trace the river's circuitous route in the curls around this bend and that one, curl after curl after curl, each representing years, decades, centuries, millennia of liquid lapping against solid. Such slow, hard work. And so inefficient. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line, after all.

So, yes, Senator, I could have written a check for a nanny. I could have visited for a week, stretching out the legislative transmittal break. I could have checked in on FaceTime every day and received texts with photos. But I had to be at the heart of it. And for 123 days, I was. I was that water, lapping against rock. It was slow, dull, mindless work, made inefficient because a current of love, rather than expediency, propelled it. The babies won't remember a bit of it, but I'll remember it every day for the rest of my life. It was, without question, a good decision – maybe the best I have ever made.

When I left Molly, she was standing on the porch with James, his bright eyes staring solemnly out of his moon face at the two of us in tears. "We made it, Mom!" Molly whispered to me as we embraced. "We made it!"

"Yes, we did, my darling girl," I responded. "And you know what? I had the time of my life."

I stopped crying somewhere over Kansas. I started again somewhere around Ulm. I'm home now, but this magical interlude is over. For just as you can never step in the same river twice, you can never return to Infancia. Life moves on. May you float, as I do, on its current of love.

~Mary Moe 2017

2017 UM Alumni Band and Flag Corp 29th Annual Reunion SCHEDULE

Friday, October 13th

10:30am	Information Table Opens, Warm Welcome, receive Music Folios, Info Packets, Band Clothing, etc.	UM Music Building Rm #105
11:00am	Alumni Concert Band Reading Session	UM Music Building RM #1
12:15pm	Alumni Band Reception - cookies, coffee, & visit (Compliments of UM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION)	UM Music Building Rm #105
12:45-1:50pm	JAZZY BOX LUNCH w/ UM Jazz I (Eat and listen to Jazz Rehearsal/Concert for us!)	UM Music Building Rm #1
2:00-3:40pm	UM Alumni Band & Flag Corp Rehearsals	UM Music Bldg Rm #1
3:45-4:15pm	Alumni Band & Flags on field with Dr Griggs (learn entrance onto field)	Practice Field
4:15-4:45pm	Alumni Band & Flags with UM GRIZ Band	Practice Field
5:30pm	No Host Happy Hour & Gathering	HOLIDAY INN BALLROOM
6:15-7:40pm	UM ALUMNI BAND "ANNUAL BANQUET" (John Combs, MC - entertainment & awards)	HOLIDAY INN BALLROOM
7:45-9:00pm	UM Alumni Jazz Band 1st set - Dance Music	HOLIDAY INN BALLROOM
9:00-9:30pm	UM GRIZ Marching Band performance	HOLIDAY INN ATRIUM
9:45-11:00pm	UM Alumni Jazz Band 2nd set	HOLIDAY INN BALLROOM

Saturday, October 14th

8:30am	Information/Late Reg/Welcome Table Opens (Coffee & Donuts Compliments of Liquid Planet and Ed & Robyn Smart/New York Life!)	UM Music Building Rm #105
8:30-9:15am	Gather for Parade & Visit time	UM Music Building Rm #105
9:15-9:30am	Photo Session	Outside Music Building
9:45-10:15am	Load Buses & Travel to Parade Start	Outside Music Building
10:30-11:40	March in Parade! (Parade begins 10:00 am)	Downtown Missoula
11:45-1:20pm	ALUMNI BAND FAMILY BBQ (March directly from parade)	McGlynn's House 525 Connell Ave
1 p.m.	UM GRIZ Band Pre-game Show & GAME (Be in your seats in Stadium & SUPPORT OUR GRIZ BAND!!!)	Washington/Grizzly Stadium

2017 REGISTRATION FORM - UM ALUMNI BAND & FLAGS 29th REUNION!!!

Please complete and return with Payment by Friday, September 29, 2017!!!

Address: Carl Smart - 5635 Kristin Lane, Missoula, MT 59803

2017 Homecoming Dates: Friday & Saturday, October 13 & 14th

NAME _____ Spouse/Other _____ EMAIL _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Address _____

What years were you in the UM Bands? (e.g. 1965-70) _____ How many years have you participated in your UM Alumni Band?? _____

I AM A FIRST TIME Alumni Band Participant!!! / \$12.00 Fee Waived !!!

_____ I wish to be an **ACTIVE MEMBER** and will be there for the 2017 Reunion! **Please complete the participation information requested below**

~OR~

_____ I wish to **remain ACTIVE**, but I am unable to attend this 2017 reunion. ☹ **Enclosed is my \$12.00 registration/donation for Alumni mailings & reunion costs!**

~BACK BY OVERWHELMING POPULAR DEMAND~

Our Friday Morning Reading Session of **CONCERT BAND MUSIC**, using arrangements we “played thru the decades”, directed by Dr. James Smart!
ALSO, our 2nd annual **ALUMNI BAND FAMILY BBQ** at the end of the parade!

****PLACE A CHECK MARK** in front of each event in which you plan to participate:

- _____ **Concert Band Rehearsal** Friday Morning - with Dr. James Smart! INSTRUMENT _____
- _____ **Jazzy Box Lunch** - eat as Jazz I, with Rob Tapper, give us live Rehearsal/Performance!
- _____ **Alumni Band Music & Marching Rehearsal** 2:00 - 4:35pm **New Field Entrance To Learn! 5:30 HAPPY HOUR; 6:00 BANQUET & ENTERTAINMENT!** (HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN)
- _____ **I Plan to Play set 1 - 7:45 - 9:00 w/ Alumni Jazz Band!** INSTRUMENT: _____
- _____ **I Plan to Play set 2 - 9:45 - 11:00 w/ Alumni Jazz Band!** INSTRUMENT: _____
- _____ **Saturday Morning Parade** - 8:30am in Music Bldg.; Coffee, Pictures, Line-up & bus downtown!!
- _____ **ALUMNI BAND FAMILY BBQ** - BEFORE the game at McGlynn’s house!
- _____ **Saturday GRIZ GAME, Start time is 1 p.m.**

Marching Instrument: _____

~OR~

PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING BAND INSTRUMENT AVAILABLE FOR ME:

_____ Sousaphone _____ Baritone Horn
_____ Percussion (Preferred: _____)

PLEASE return this Form & Check by **SEPTEMBER 29th** for confirming meal numbers & instrumentation!!
YES, your spouse/friend is invited to participate in all events & play in the band! Percussion and large brass instruments provided **ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE REQUESTED IN ADVANCE!!**
YES, we’re planning on 10 Sousaphones & over 100 Alumni Band & Flag Corp marching this year!!

MAKE YOUR CHECK TO “**UM ALUMNI BAND**” and enclose it with this form:

<u>ITEM/EVENT</u>	<u>PER PERSON</u>	<u># of PERSONS</u>	=	<u>Cost</u>
JAZZY BOX LUNCH	\$10.00 ea	X _____	=	_____
BANQUET & ENTERTAINMENT!	\$26.00 ea	X _____	=	_____
TAILGATE BBQ Kids under 12 free!	\$10.00 ea	X _____	=	_____
ALUMNI REG. / 1st Timer Fee Waived!	\$12.00 ea	X _____	=	_____
EXTRA Alumni Band Donation to help with costs for awards, future plans, etc. ☺			=	_____
YOUR GRAND TOTAL of AMOUNT ENCLOSED			=	\$ _____

***ALSO, please consider making a donation in support of the current UM Bands!! To contribute to one of the finest University Band Programs in the USA, please write a SEPARATE CHECK made payable to “**UNIVERSITY of MONTANA BANDS**” and mail in with this form! We’ll present these donations from our members to UM Band Dir. at the banquet!

YES, I am enclosing an additional donation check to the UM Bands in the amount of \$ _____

Carl Smart, 2017 Organizing Chairman

Home - (406) 251-6831

Cell - (406) 240-7220

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to the following people and merchants
for supporting the UM Alumni Band!



**The McGlynn
Family**



Photos: John Kutzman, Kimberly Minckler, Phil Doty, Facebook, The Missoulian, Mary Moe
Newsletter Editor: Kimberly Minckler

UM BAND ECHOES

Carl Smart
2017 Organizing Chairman
Home – (406) 251-6831
Cell – (406) 240-7220

2017 UM ALUMNI BAND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carl Smart
James Smart
Robert Tapper
Kevin Griggs
John Combs
Brendan McGlynn
Kimberly Minckler
Peter McKenzie
Melanie Charlson
Kris High