

***The Helena Education Foundation***  
*presents*  
***Great Conversations***  
***Wednesday, November 17, 2004***  
***Conversation Topics and Speakers***

**Table 1: Montana and the Movies: Local Industry or “Foreign” Location**

**Dennis Aig.** Filmmaker for 25 years; produced/directed documentaries and dramatic work, including “Shadow-Casing: Making of A River Runs Through It,” and others; media/theatre arts professor at MSU.

**Table 2: Chips and Intelligence: From Apples to Automobiles**

**Jim Arnold.** Director of Technology Commercialization for SRI International; works with industry to create innovative electronics and software products; latest work focused on using artificial intelligence for everyday tasks.

**Table 3: Range on the Homeland**

**John Baucus.** Fourth generation rancher on the Sieben Ranch, managing the land and livestock for nearly 30 years; Helena native who still loves what he does.

**Table 4: Secrets of the Financial Pages: What Does it All Mean?**

**Bill Beaman.** Currently a “day trader” and financial consultant; spent 28 years with DA Davidson as VP and Officer Manager; MBA in Finance from the University of Montana.

**Table 5: Union, Marriage, Gay or Straight: Is Love Great?**

**Steve Brehe.** Rector of St. Peter’s Parish in Helena since 1991; priest for nearly 25 years; flatland Midwesterner who came to Montana for the mountains and people.

**Table 6: Mansfield, Metcalf and Today’s Statesmanship**

**The Honorable Gordon Bennett.** Born in Scobey, MT, the Athens of Eastern Montana; lawyer; retired District Court Judge; currently mediator for legal cases across the state

**Table 7: Beyond Partisan Politics**

**John Bohlinger.** Billings businessman for 33 years, Marine Corps veteran, UM graduate and Montana legislator for 12 years; on 2004 Montana lieutenant governor’s race ticket as Republican with Democrat governor candidate.

**Table 8: Vitalism: The Human Story of Optimal Health**

**Michael Bergkamp, N.D.** A licensed acupuncturist and naturopathic physician; traveled twice to Asian to study traditional medicine and enjoys blending this knowledge and experience with clinical Western medicine.

**Table 9: The Sopranos: Something to Sing About?**

**Debra Bernardi.** Teaches American Literature at Carroll College; writes about popular culture, movies and TV; grew up in Tony Soprano’s New Jersey neighborhood; is also interested in the portrayal of Italian Americans.

**Table 10: Lights, Camera, Action: Behind the Scenes in Hollywood**

**Eric Brown.** Helena graduate and Hollywood cinematographer; recent credits include “Without a Trace” and just completed “Monster-in-Law” with Jane Fonda and Jennifer Lopez, and Radio Shack and Allstate commercials.

**Table 11: The Federal Deficit: Why Pay Now When Our Kids Can Pay Later?**

**Gary Buchanan.** President/CEO of Buchanan Capital, Billings; former member, Montana Power Authority, Montana Board of Investments; former Chair, Board of Crime Control; Governor’s Task Force on Reorganizing Government.

**Table 12: Great Discoveries in Modern Astronomy**

**Kelly Cline.** Originally from Alaska; earned Ph.D. in Astrophysics at U of Colorado where studied sunspots and the sun’s magnetic activity; has taught math, physics and astronomy at Carroll College since 2003.

**Table 13: Escape from Liberia**

**Wilmot Collins.** Born, raised and educated in Liberia and the U.S.; left homeland during the civil crisis in Liberia; BA in Political Science and MSc.; married with two children.

**Table 14: The DaVinci Code Mystique**

**Terry Cosgrove.** 30 year Helena attorney, now Sr. VP, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana; reads fiction and non-fiction, including all Dan Brown novels; interested in determining fact vs fiction in The Da Vinci Code.

**Table 15: Our Mother English: Why Don’t We Talk Like the English?**

**Frank Crowley.** Helena attorney and humorist; Masters in Environmental Studies; passions include the study of languages and etymology. B.A. in Foreign Languages from Holy Cross College.

**Table 16: Biographies: Lessons from Fame and Infamy**

**Gary L. Davis.** Long-time Helena attorney; avid reader since grade school, gravitating to history and biographies; student of history and significant persons who made history; determined traveler to many third world countries.

**Table 16: Dick Tracy & the Wrist Radio – Like That Would Ever Happen!**

**Gretchen Edelen.** Science fiction aficionado and high school English teacher since 1985, began career as starry-eye kid in 1974 and if the stars have dimmed, it is only because of eyestrain!

**Table 17: Fear Factor: How Americans are Ruining their Healthcare System**

**Ken Eden, M.D.** Helena internist and gastroenterologist who has a long history of interest and involvement in the achievements and failures of the American healthcare system.

**Table 18: Flight of Ideas and Ideas of Flight: Aviation Lore and Myths**

**Gene Etchart.** Retired rancher and Montana aviation pioneer; operated civilian flying schools before instructing WWII military cadets; still flying in his 80’s, he was recently awarded FAA’s Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” award.

**Table 19: The Wal-Martification of America**

**Fred Flanders.** 20 year Helena resident with 40 years in the financial services industry; former MT Commissioner of Financial Institutions and Sr. VP of lending for Norwest Bank; bicycling and mountain climbing enthusiast.

**Table 20: History of the Blues: Marketing the Intangible**

**Andre Floyd.** Great Falls native, has performed original blues all over the world; worked with Gregg Ahmann, Leon Russell and countless others; currently works with schools in programs such as “Blues and the Schools.

**Table 21: Best Kept Secrets of World War II: Invasion BEFORE Normandy**

**Ed Gilleran.** NYC native; 2 ½ years in European Theatre of Operations during WWII in Normandy, Northern France, Belgium and Germany; married to Helena girl for 56 years; advertising agency copywriter for 40 years.

**Table 22: In the Footsteps of the Blackfeet**

**Jack Gladstone.** Member of the Blackfeet, grew up in the oral traditions of the American West; released 9 independently produced albums; standout scholar and athlete, winning Rose Bowl while at U of Washington.

**Table 23: A Clone of Your Own: Science and Politics of Stem Cells**

**Mary Haag, Ph.D.** Director of the Clinical Genetics Laboratory, Montana Medical Genetics Program, Shodair; faculty member for National Cancer Institute; Affiliate Assistant Professor of Medical Science, MSU.

**Table 24: Yup'ik Eskimos: Contemporary Life in Alaskan Villages**

**Tom Harpole.** Known associate of recognized experts, adventure seeker and writer; has visited and written about cultures & environmental issues in every continent; spent 300 days in Yup'ik villages on Bering Sea in last 9 years.

**Table 25: MSU Football: Cats, Not Underdogs!**

**Sonny Holland.** MSU's all-time winningest coach who piloted the '76 championship run; Athlete of the Century.

**Table 26: Sports Agent: Midlife Crisis of a Sports Junkie**

**Dan Hoven.** Certified National Football League/Canadian Football League contract advisor; member of Sports Lawyers Association; Agent for Casey Fitzsimmons of Detroit Lions and other players; Helena lawyer for 25 years.

**Table 27: Gambling in Montana: It's Only Money, Honey**

**Gene Huntington.** Administrator of Gambling Control Division, MT Department of Justice; has held several administrative positions in state government; student of Montana history and Montana state government.

**Table 28: Montana Post Election Politics: What Does it All Mean?**

**Chuck Johnson.** HHS and UM grad; studied politics and economics at Oxford University in England; reported on Montana government and politics for Lee Newspapers and Great Falls Tribune since 1974.

**Table 29: Venus Envy: Evolving Gender Roles and Relationships**

**Charlotte Jones.** Professor of Communication Studies at Carroll College; teaches class on gender communication; degree from University of Texas.

**Table 30: Common Ground: Can We End Montana's Natural Resources Wars?**

**Brian Kahn.** Attorney, mediator and host of the award-winning public radio program, "Home Ground;" former collegiate boxing coach, politician, author, documentary filmmaker and Director of the Montana Nature Conservancy.

**Table 32: Wilderness Urbanization: Critters in the Hood**

**Michael Korn.** Began career in 1989 at MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks as Landowner-Sportsman Relations Coordinator; became Helena Area Coordinator in 1996 and oversees area fish, wildlife, parks and law enforcement programs.

**Table 33: Apologies and Forgiveness: I'm Sorry You Feel That Way!**

**Aaron Lazare, M.D.** Chancellor and Dean, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School; has appeared on "Oprah" and "Good Morning America" on this topic; father of 8 adopted children of three races.

**Table 34: It's 2 AM – It Must Be Time for Bio 101: Technology and the New Higher Ed**

**Paul LeBlanc, Ph.D.** President, Southern New Hampshire University, a provider of distance education programs to 11,000 students in 24 time zones; former President of Marlboro College; research focuses on technology & literacy.

**Table 35: Terrorism in Spain: History, Democracy and 3/11**

**David Messenger, Ph.D.** Assistant Professor of History at Carroll College, specializing in Modern European and Latin American history; specialist on Spain and recipient of 2004-5 research grant from the Spanish government.

**Table 36: It Takes a Village to Leave No Child Behind**

**Bruce Messinger, Ed.D.** Superintendent of Helena Public Schools since 1997; Montana Superintendent of the Year 2002; actively involved at state and national levels in school funding, student achievement, & learning outcomes.

**Table 37: Sport Marketing in an Entertainment Economy**

**Jason Michelotti.** In Dallas office of Millsport, works with Pepsi, Frito Lay, Taco Bell for programs in the NFL, PGA, NASCAR, college sports. MBA in Sport Marketing from Oregon's Warsaw Sports Marketing Center.

**Table 38: All Creatures Great and Small**

**Tia Nelson, D.V.M.** Great Falls native; graduate of Colorado State University, practicing in Helena since 1999; interested in the dramatic changes in our relationships with our animal companions.

**Table 39: Middle East Crisis: Impact on Montana?**

**Charles Oliver.** 40 years global engineering/construction experience with 20 years in the Middle East and Africa; retired President, Fluor Corporation, CA, and retired COO Washington Group, Boise; Trustee, UM Foundation.

**Table 40: Animal Evolution: Asteroids, Glaciers and Floods - Oh, No!**

**Kevin Peterson, Ph.D.** Assistant Professor of Biology at Dartmouth College; CHS and Carroll graduate; current research focuses on genetics and evolution – when did animals originate and how do we know that?

**Table 41: The Medicine Line: Whooping It Up on the Montana-Alberta Border**

**Charlene Porsild.** A native of Canada's Yukon, is Director of the Research Center at the MT Historical Society; author and former Fulbright fellow and history professor.

**Table 42: The Griz Wiz at U of M**

**Don Read.** UM Athletic Director; Grizzly football coach 1986-1995; coach of most successful UM football team in history and of first national championship team; has been color commentator for FOX sports and a substitute teacher.

**Table 43: Muslims and Americans: Is Conflict Inevitable Forever?**

**Clay Scott.** Foreign correspondent for Christian Science Monitor radio and ABC news; covered conflicts in Bosnia, Chechnya, Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian territories; won an Emmy for his reporting from Kosovo.

**Table 44. Word People and People Words**

**Chrysti M. Smith.** Poplar native who hosts NPR series "Chrysti the Wordsmith" which highlights origins and histories of American English phrases; author of book called *The Verbivore's Feast*, June 2004.

**Table 45: Polarization of the Media: Oh, Really, O'Reilly, but What About Rather?**

**Steve Smith.** Houston TV anchor for 30 years, traveling to every part of the globe; owns media consulting firm and enjoys traveling to Montana to fish every summer; chaired 2004 U of Houston Honors College Great Conversations.

**Table 46: Alfred Hitchcock: From Birds to Vertigo**

**Ron Stottlemeyer.** A long-time Hitchcock fan and Carroll College professor of English, specializing in Medieval English mystics, old and middle English literature and linguistics.

**47. Nation-Building: California to Central Asia**

**Thomas Trebon, Ph.D.** President of Carroll College; academic interests in international politics, economic & political development in the third world; has lived and traveled in many countries.

**Table 48: The Problem of Painting: What Were You Thinking!**

**Doug Turman.** Local painter, printmaker, jazz drummer whose works can be found on all 7 continents; owner of Turman Gallery in downtown Helena; degrees from Oberlin College and the University of Montana.

**Table 49: Success: Attitude and Opportunity**

**Mike Van Diest.** Head coach of Carroll College's national championship football team; college coach since 1976; HHS and U of Wyoming graduate.

**Table 50: Respecting the Dead: Last Wishes and Other Posthumous Mischief**

**Jan Van Riper.** Helena lawyer and bioethicist studying law and philosophy around treatment of the dead; interest in this morbid topic arose on the occasion of considering the obligation to fulfill a friend's last wish.

**Table 51: Following Your Bliss: Downtown DC to Augusta, Montana**

**Sara Walsh.** Former DC attorney; daughter of Iran/Contra Independent Counsel, Lawrence Walsh; had success without satisfaction, so seized the opportunity to move to Montana; now owns Latigo & Lace in Augusta.

**Table 52: 2004 Presidential Election: A Postmortem**

**Dennis Wiedmann, Ph.D.** Professor of Political Science, Carroll College; Burlington Northern Teacher of the Year, 1991; NEH Fellow 1984, UC Berkeley; degrees from Cal State Hayward and UC, Riverside.

**Table 53: Getting Oriented to China: Political and the Economic Implications**

**Doug Young, Ph.D.** MSU Economist, recently returned from China on Fulbright Fellowship; has lectured at 10 universities and traveled extensively, including Mongolia, Australia and returned to Vietnam where served 1968-69.

**Table 54: America's Poker Explosion: What's the Big Deal?**

**Hugh Zackheim.** By day, a Montana land conservation professional for 20 years; by night, navigates green felt jungles in search of fame (little) and fortune (less) in poker tables across Montana.