



At UM, a 1912 brochure promised female students could experience "ideal conditions of student life" and "develop intellectual, social and spiritual powers through the inspiration of sharing study, recreation and generous endeavor with friends and fellow students."

Women's History Walking Tour

1 Kim Williams Walking Trail
Dedicated: 1987

This popular riverfront trail follows the historic route of the Milwaukee railroad. It offers a scenic recreational spot for Missoula bicyclists, joggers, and commuters. The trail is named for noted naturalist and National Public Radio (NPR) personality Kim Williams. After her death in 1986, her fellow Missoula residents lobbied to have a trail commemorate Williams' legacy. The School of Journalism also grants a scholarship in her honor.

Women's
and Gender
Studies at

The University of Montana



Women have a long and distinguished history at the University of Montana. The first two graduates were Ella Robb Glenny and Eloise Knowles. Of the seven original faculty members, three were women. The 1893 University Charter promised: "the instruction of young men and women on equal terms." By 1903, women had their own building on campus. This tour celebrates many of the buildings—here and gone—where women made their impact at the University of Montana.

2 Memorial Row

Dedicated: 1919

UM planted 31 pine trees to commemorate University men killed in World War I. The trees also honored those who died of influenza, including five female nurses: Katherine Byrne, Lillian E. Halse, Mary F. Garrigus, and Leila Requam. Of head nurse Hazel Yoder, University President Edward Sisson wrote: "Of her it may be said as truly as of a soldier in battle that she fell in action in the defense of her country."

3 McGill Hall

Dedicated: 1953

The Women's Center Building (now McGill Hall) boasted "weaving, textile and clothing laboratories, foods and dietetics laboratories, a model kitchen laboratory, lecture auditorium, classrooms and offices" for the University's Home Economics department. The dedication speech praised UM women for their "great tradition of developed and inspired service to Home, to the State, and to their Country."

4 Jeannette Rankin Hall

Dedicated: 1908

The fifth building and first library on campus. It was re-dedicated in 1983 to celebrate Montana's first female congresswoman, elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1916. Rankin played an instrumental role in the fight for woman's suffrage in Montana and nationally. She voted against American entry into World War I, and cast the only vote against American entry into World War II. Rankin devoted her life to pacifism, peace, and political activism.

5 University Center

Dedicated: 1966

This building is home to the Women's Resource Center. The WRC hosts campus and community events such as Take Back the Night and Love Your Body Day. They strive "to actively represent 21st century feminism as a dynamic discipline concerned with all issues of gender and inequality." The WRC also maintains the largest feminist library in Montana.

6 Women's Gymnasium

Dedicated: 1903

This wood paneled building served as the women's gym from 1922-1957. Women often complained of sub-par facilities and opportunities. The building was demolished in 1956, but inequality persisted until the passage of Title IX in 1972 paved the way for improved equality in sports.

7 Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library

Dedicated: 1973

Mike Mansfield represented Montana in Congress from 1942-1977. Mansfield often credited Maureen as one of the best influences in his life: she encouraged him to seek an education and leave the mines of Butte to pursue a career in first teaching and then politics. Many say Mike refused to have the library named after him unless his wife's name preceded his own. A statue of the couple stands between the library and University Center.

8 Forestry

Dedicated: 1922

When Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot visited Missoula in 1909 to support plans for a forestry program, he had help from conservationist Alma Higgins and her colleagues in the Montana Federation of Women's Clubs. The women launched a statewide campaign in 1907 to promote forest conservation and education. In 1928 Jo Darlington of Dillon became the first woman in the nation to earn a forestry degree.

9 Science Hall

Dedicated: 1898

This building hosted many of the earliest Women's and Gender Studies classes. Focusing on student led seminars, women in the 1970s learned automotive repair, debated reproductive rights, and learned women's history. The building was demolished in 1983. The WGS Program currently resides in Liberal Arts 138 A-B.

10 Mathematics

Dedicated: 1903

This first women's dormitory reflected UM's early commitment to encouraging education for women. Female students lived under strict rules such as these social codes printed in the *Kaimin*, the student run newspaper. The Women's Advisory Council ordered: "Green bows must be worn by freshman girls at all times...Not more than one article of jewelry may be worn and positively no cosmetics used. A conspicuous amount of jewelry is in very bad taste in the young girls."

11 Payne Family Native American Center

Dedicated: 2010

Bonnie Heavy Runner Craig served as director of the Native American Studies program and fostered a commitment to cultural diversity and tribal justice. That mission lives on in the Eloise Cobell Land and Culture Institute, named for land rights activist Eloise Cobell.

12 International Center

Dedicated: 1937

Originally called the Women's Club-Art Building, this structure served as a social and organizational hub for women on campus. Many women's organizations have played a major role on campus, including sororities such as Kappa Alpha Theta, Delta Gamma, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Alpha Phi. An Equal Suffrage Club formed in 1914 under Jeannette Rankin. Women's groups shaped their college experiences then and today.

13 Elrod Hall

Dedicated: 1923

Named for Morton J. Elrod, head of the sciences and biology. His daughter Mary Elrod Ferguson was employed in the University museum after her father's stroke. She was also a founding member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and the local chapter of the American Association of University Women. In her tenure at UM, she served as Dean of Women and also as a zoology professor.

14 Knowles Hall

Dedicated: 1963

Named after one of first two university graduates, Eloise Knowles, who graduated from UM in 1898 with a degree in philosophy. She played an instrumental role in founding the local chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and the UM Mortar Board. She taught in the Art Department until 1915. The only other member of the 1898 graduating class was also a woman: Ella Robb Glenny received a Bachelor of Arts degree.

15 Turner Hall

Dedicated: 1937

Originally called "New Hall," this women's dormitory was renamed to honor Belle B. Turner, who served as housemother and social director for many years. Several women camped on the lawn of Turner to protest curfews for female students in the 1970s, earning the ire of the then Dean of Women. The first Dean of Women, Mary Stewart, would not have minded the protests: she had traveled all across the state agitating for woman's suffrage in the 1910s, arranging rallies on campus and encouraging young students to take part in political action.

16 Corbin Hall & Brantly Hall

Dedicated: 1927 & 1923

These dormitories—now office spaces—are named for two early women staff members. Frances Corbin was an early English Professor who also led the Literature Department and served as Dean of Women. Lois Reat Brantly served as housemother of the dormitory from 1923-1929. Female students not only had their own dormitories but also their own handbook. The 1952 edition of "Carol Co-ed" included a dress code chart, (which advised *never* wearing jeans downtown), hints for making friends, study tips, and the following advice: "Your handshake should be a happy medium between a dead fish and an Amazonian stranglehold."

For more on women at UM

See <http://exhibits.lib.umt.edu/women-in-politics/timeline/um>