

# WHAT YOU DO MATTERS

## Nick Triolo

### The Leonard and Sandy Sargent Graduate Fellowship

In 1992, Rick Hubbard Sargent and his wife, Judi Stauffer, decided to give his parents a unique present for his father's 80th birthday. They created the Leonard and Sandy Sargent Graduate Fellowship Endowment Fund within the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Montana, a gift designed to provide support to students with a demonstrated record of environmental activism.

Nearly twenty years later, that gift continues to impact lives.

"So many doors have opened for me since receiving the Sargent Scholarship," said graduate student Nick Triolo, one of two fellowship recipients for the 2014-15 academic year. "The funds were applied to my tuition, freeing me up to start applying what I'm learning in the classroom to on-the-ground projects I deeply care about."

As it turns out, Nick cares about a lot.

Last semester, he directed a documentary film called, "The Crossing," which features a 70-mile race in Baja, Mexico that he organized in protest of open pit gold mining in the Sierra De La Laguna Mountains. The film has already generated attention from several film festivals across the U.S.

In addition, the scholarship also allowed him to focus on his writing career. Over the past year, his work has been featured in *Trail Runner Magazine*, *Camas Magazine*, and *The Whitefish Review*.

But he isn't the only one to benefit from the Sargent Fellowship. Since the endowment began making



grants in 1995, 42 fellowships have been awarded. Prior recipients have gone on to become highly successful in their respective fields.

"Nick is another outstanding Sargent Graduate Fellow in the Environmental Studies Program," said Sargent Fellowship co-founder Judi Stauffer. "Talented, passionate, committed to protecting our natural environment, and with a very promising career ahead of him."

"What you do matters tremendously," Nick wrote in a letter to the Sargent family. "I hope you realize how enabling it has been for me to pursue my passions with ferocity and support."

## Do you want to make a difference?

For more information on how you can take part in these scholarships and others like them, please contact **Marci Bozeman** at (406) 243-2646 or email [marci.bozeman@mso.umt.edu](mailto:marci.bozeman@mso.umt.edu). More than 140 scholarships totalling over \$400,000 are offered annually to students studying in the departments and programs of H&S.