

University of Montana Western

March 2013

Campus Report to the Board of Regents

University and area health and safety officials met recently in an ongoing effort to ensure safety and security for the campus. The group meets to review emergency preparedness planning, discuss national and local health and safety issues, engage in open communication, and share information. Participants included the Dillon chief of police, Beaverhead County sheriff, volunteer fire department chief, director of county public health, and director of county Disaster and Emergency Services as well as the university's senior staff and facilities and safety administrators. UMW Dean of Students Nicole Hazelbaker reported on a recent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conference that she and Dillon Police Chief Paul Craft attended in which the preparedness and cooperative efforts of the university and community were lauded by federal and state officials.

Two of our science faculty members, Professors Steve Mock and Rob Thomas, were recently selected by the Montana Ambassadors as their Montana Educators of the Year. This selection was based on their demonstrated excellence in teaching as well as their key roles in the development and implementation of Experience One scheduling. On February 21st they received their award from Governor Bullock, who was the keynote speaker at the dinner that followed the presentations.

A recent "On the Rocks" featured Dr. Thomas, Professor of Geology who spoke about the geology of the world based on his experience with Semester at Sea last spring. He described salient aspects of the geology of each port he visited, blending it with culture and environmental issues.

Matthew Matich, a Business Administration/Health and Fitness Management student, was awarded the Outstanding Student Award at the 2012 BACCHUS Network General Assembly held in Orlando. The Network is a non-profit national organization promoting health and safety initiatives on U.S. campuses and in communities. The Network recognized the Butte native for his leadership in the UMW Tobacco Free Task Force and in peer education. Matich and several students also created a tobacco prevention presentation, which was recognized as a BACCHUS National Award Winning Program of the Year. The Fine Arts Department presented six holiday performances of "Little Women" in the Small Auditorium in the newly renovated Main Hall.

Environmental interpretation students gave a living history of the Birch Creek Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. Students wore period clothing and presented an oral and visual history of the camp. The site, just north of Dillon, is presently on the National Register of Historic Places and is operated by Montana Western.

Associate Professor of Music Brent Poe McCabe recently released a classical guitar album entitled "Evocación." The album features popular music from South America, Cuba and Spain.

Maegen Nahrgang, a junior business major and a member of the rodeo team, was one of seven student-athletes from colleges and universities across the state to receive the 2012 Montana Athletes in Service Award sponsored by the Montana Campus Compact. She is currently the president of ASUMW. New in the Learning Center is a software tracking system called AccuTrack. This system will allow us to more efficiently track the use of the Center and student success.