

## **University of Montana Western**

### **September 2012 campus report to the Board of Regents (taken primarily from our website)**

Montana Western environmental interpretation major Tamie Laverdure came to college certain she wanted to pursue a career in conservation. Laverdure was less certain she had the ability to make her pursuit a reality, but the 42-year old Montana resident graduated in May 2012 and became one of only five female game wardens in Montana. "I feel so lucky," Laverdure explains. "My biggest advantage was going to Montana Western. My academic experience prepared me, but the biggest thing is the belief in myself, the confidence."

Before coming to Dillon, Laverdure operated heavy equipment in a gold mine near Jefferson City. She wanted more out of her work and after a visit to the UMW campus she enrolled in spring 2009 because of Experience One. "When I found out about the block, I said 'I can do that. I know I can do that,'" Laverdure says. "Montana Western is big on hands-on learning and doing work in the field, things that apply to a career."

In 2011, Laverdure interned with Montana FWP at the Montana Wild education center. As part of her internship, she was tasked with creating a bear awareness program. Laverdure's project was featured in the November-December 2011 issue of Montana Outdoors, the official magazine of the Montana FWP.

This past summer, we named Janelle Handlos interim athletic director and manager of the Bulldog Athletic and Recreation Complex. Handlos has been the head certified athletic trainer here since fall 2007. A Kennewick, Washington native, she enrolled at Montana Western in 1996 and earned a Bachelor of Science with honors in Secondary Education, Health and Human Performance with an English minor in 2000. She is working toward a doctorate degree in educational administration. We believe she is the first women in the history of the campus to serve in the role of athletic director .

The 115th University of Montana Western Commencement took place on Saturday, May 5. The class of 2012 was comprised of 307 students: the largest since the 1920s. Montana Commissioner Emerita Sheila Stearns, Ph.D. gave the commencement address.

Amanda Kortum, a 2011 University of Montana Western biology graduate, enrolled in the DVM/Ph.D. program at North Carolina State University beginning with the fall 2012 semester.

Last spring, the Education Department inducted 25 new members into the Mu Phi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education. It was the 40th Kappa Delta Pi initiation at Montana Western.

A collaboration between the University of Montana Western and Montana Tech is offering students the opportunity to earn a bachelor of science in elementary education from Montana Western's education program by taking classes through UMW at the Montana Tech campus.

A Montana Western honors course, taught by Professor Dana Cotton, will travel to Peru next spring to study the Amazon ecosystem and culture of the Incas.

We have been working to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our information technology operations on campus.